



**“Immersion”**  
Matthew 3:1-17  
July 6, 2014

Bible is our sole authority  
Autonomy of the Local Church  
Priesthood of the believer  
Tithing  
Immersion

**4 People Who Came to Be Baptized**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ People
  - Pharisees
  - Sadducees
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ People
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ People
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Soldiers

**4 Reasons Was Jesus Baptized**

1. He Was Identifying His Ministry With John the Baptist’s
2. He Was Announcing the Beginning of His Ministry
3. He Was Identifying With Sinful Humanity
4. He Was Setting the \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Important Questions About Baptism**

1. WHO? Those Who’ve Trusted In Christ as Savior & Lord
2. WHAT? It Is \_\_\_\_\_ by Water
3. HOW? It Is In the Name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
4. WHEN? It Is to Be \_\_\_\_\_ As Possible

**4 Reasons Believers Should Be Baptized**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized
2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to be baptized
  - It’s an Act of \_\_\_\_\_
  - It’s an Act of Surrender & Humility
3. Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ proclamation of an \_\_\_\_\_ Transformation
4. It \_\_\_\_\_ Us to the Body of Christ

**Our Response:**

1. Have you clearly understood the Word of God this morning or this week that you need to become a Christ Follower? It’s as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!!
2. Be willing to step over the line this morning and be obedient in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by **not attending but joining** His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
3. For some this morning, your decision is clear. You have already made that decision to trust in Christ as Savior and Lord but you have not been baptized yet. That needs to be your next step. We are baptizing tonight. I encourage you to come forward this morning and make your decision public and be baptized tonight. Don’t put off this important act of obedience any longer!

# WHY WE ARE BAPTISTS?

## “Immersion”

*Matthew 3:1-17 & Luke 3:1-22*

July 6, 2014 AM Worship

Talking about our Baptist Distinctives

Bible is our sole authority, Autonomy of the Local Church

Priesthood of the believer, Tithing

We believe that there are 2 ordinances (that which is ordered, set out, decided or put in place) or commands of the Lord to the Church that we must follow. They are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both of these were clearly commanded by Jesus to His disciples and to us is well in Scripture. For Baptism in the Great Commission and the Lord's Supper during the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord's Supper on the eve of His death.

“Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a Church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.”

*Baptist Faith and Message*

**Look at the Scripture but this time let's turn to Luke's account in Luke 3 and let's see who was coming and what John told them.**

It really sheds light on the nature of baptism, when one was baptized and the results of the changed life that was reflected in the fact of life change.

That's what happens when we find Christ, He changes everything and the way that we live our lives changes, the decisions that we make, the way we spend our resources, the way we treat one another and most importantly how we follow Christ!

John's Message was clear, **REPENT**, change your mind about God.

Have a change of direction, change our ways, not just some superficial remorse or regret over our sin. It is much more! It is a radical departure from our old sinful life, a turning our back on their sin and turning to trust Christ alone to save them.

Outside of God's grace, we have no hope. He must intervene in our lives. We must come to that place of desperation and realize that we must have Christ in our lives.

## 4 People Who Came to Be Baptized

### 1. The Religious People     **Be Real**

Hell is going to be full of religious people. It's just like getting a flu shot, you get just enough to keep you from getting the real thing. People hide behind the banner, I am religious, I am a good person, I go to church, I am nice, the Bible is clear, unless you are born again you will not see the kingdom of heaven. Confessing Him as your Master and Lord, Your Savior and King! You might have religion but you must have a relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ.

- \* **Pharisees**                      Legalistic, ritualistic, separatists,  
Strong sense of the supernatural, faithful to tithe 10% of their income  
But, they were lost Down at the Jordan, coming to be baptized
- \* **Sadducees**                      Rationalists, Liberals, denied angels, did not believe  
in the supernatural, or the resurrection. Average church member knows  
enough about God to just endure the things of God rather than enjoy the  
things of God!

**Matthew 23:1-3** Do we lead by example, do we practice what we preach. John called for change. The question this morning is where is the evidence of your changed life? Have you been transformed by the power of God, a change of mind and heart, a change of direction. We come to Christ just as we are, God will help us to change. People think, I'll get my life cleaned up first, then I'll come to church or I'll ask Christ into my heart, my question would be, well you seem to have been trying that a long time, is it working yet? Let God clean you up, He is waiting on you today!!

### 2. The Regular People     **Luke 3:10   Be unselfish**

John is saying, if you are sincere about your confession, then let it be demonstrated through your acts of kindness, through generosity, if you have two coats, give one away, be generous, let it be evident that you have been transformed by Jesus. The problem is we become self-centered, selfish and we ignore the needs around us, but repentance should lead us to have genuine concern for people.

**3. The Revenue Collectors** **Be honest** (IRS can get saved) tax collectors  
Don't collect anymore than you are required to,  
They were Jews, and they were despised by their fellow Jews.  
They were making money off of them, skimming of the top.  
They were at the Jordan, getting right with God.  
Give outward proof to the claim of your character change. Get honest,  
**Matthew 7:20**, by your fruit you will recognize them.  
If you have been changed, people around you will know it.  
Your family, your friends, your schoolmates, employees and employers,  
they will see it in you. Evidence of a changed life

**4. The Roman Soldiers** What should we do? **Be Gentle**  
Revival has come, FBI, police want to get right with God.  
Be content with your pay, don't intimidate people to get money anymore.  
John was operating on God's purpose, being honest about who they are  
and what it would really take for them to be changed.  
There should be a radical difference in our lives when we find Jesus and  
we should be growing to become more like Him everyday.  
John called for integrity and high character in the practical manners of  
everyday life. It's not beating people over the head with a big Bible, but  
simply living like Jesus lived. It's letting Jesus live through us, loving our  
enemies, loving those who are down and out, being Jesus in the flesh.

Baptism in the NT was related to the ministry of both John the Baptist and  
Jesus. John's baptism was symbolic of one's repentance from sin and of  
willingness to participate in the kingdom of God. **John's baptism was**  
Acknowledgement of one's sin. **Believer's baptism is** Acknowledgment  
of one's salvation. **John's Baptism** Involved confession of sin,  
**Believer's baptism** the confession of Christ

#### **4 Reasons Jesus Was Baptized**

It symbolized his own death, burial, and resurrection.

- 1. He Was Identifying His Ministry With John the Baptist's** – the kingdom had come that John had been preaching about and repentance was a part of Christ's message in the same way John's was.
- 2. He Was Announcing the Beginning of His Ministry.** It also was a transition from John's baptism to Christian baptism.

3. **He Was Identifying With Sinful Humanity** – Our Great High Priest
4. **He Was Setting the Example** Do what I do, not just what I say. Not asking you to do anything I'm not willing to do!

#### 4 Important Questions About Baptism

1. **WHO? For Those Who Have Trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord.** It follows after the decision to and not before. Baptism is not essential to salvation; it does not complete salvation. It's why we don't baptize infants. It's not in Scripture, it's a tradition of man. Because they have not come to the age where the trust Christ. It is an act that follows salvation not the other way around. Often time it is called christening in other faiths where we simply dedicate our children to the Lord and parents and a church committing to raising them in that way. **Does Baptism save us?** Clearly the answer is no. Doesn't get us to heaven, not required for salvation, however it is as we will see a very important part of growing as child of God.
2. **WHAT? It Is Immersion by Water** the word *bapitzo*, which means to dip, plunge, submerge, immerse, to go beneath or under. It's why we don't sprinkle. For a long time, in many places people were baptized in creeks before we had indoor plumbing and heated baptisteries but thank goodness it's not still the good 'ole days.  
Romans 6:4 "We were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life." NASU  
Colossians 2:12 "For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death." GNT
3. **HOW? It Is In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**
4. **WHEN? It Is to Be Immediate As Possible** – Look in [Acts](#)

#### 4 Reasons Believers Should Be Baptized

1. **Jesus Was Baptized** – We Follow His Example  
He was the Redeemer, willing to walk sixty miles to do it.  
He did not even need to be baptized, did it to identify with us
2. **Jesus Commanded Us to Be Baptized** - It's an act of obedience  
[Matthew 28:18-19](#) – Great Commission "Peter said to them, " Repent,

and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ Acts 2:37-38

It's a way of saying yes Lord. NO believers in the New Testament resisted baptism or neglected the opportunity to obey Christ in this way. Although baptism is not necessary for salvation, it is necessary for obedience.

**3. Baptism is a Public Proclamation of an Inward Transformation** – It shows I am changed and a genuine believer. Again baptism doesn't make you a Christian but shows that you are one. It's a sermon without words. Jesus has changed me and I want to identify with him and I want everyone to know that I have met Jesus, and I'm new creation in Christ. It is a symbol, a picture of something. **ILLUS: Wedding Ring**

- It is a Picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
- A Picture of our death to our sin, burying it, and being raised to a changed person (the resurrected life) It reflects the believer's repentance of personal sin and celebrates the believer's new life in Christ. It is a picture of life from death.
- It is a witness to others that we are in a relationship with Christ

**4. It Connects Us to the Body of Christ.**

Shows us becoming a part of the body of Christ.

**J B Gambrell SBC Leader back in late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries described baptism this way, "Baptism is both a separating and a unifying ordinance. Symbolically it separates from the old life and commits the baptized to the new life in Christ. Therefore, we are said to put on Christ by baptism. As a common uniform unifies an army, because the uniform is a symbol of obedience and service in the one army and under one flag, so does baptism separate from the old life symbolically and bring together those who are enlisted in Christ's army."**