

Water Baptism is one of three ordinances that the church observes, put forth by our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our hope that your life in Christ will be one of continuous growth and prosperity. 3 John 1:2 “beloved I wish above all you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers”.

Those that desire water baptism, it is our aim to share some biblical truths that will set the course for the journey you have embarked upon with Christ.

Water Baptism (1st Ordinance)

Water Baptism is a vital part of the salvation experience, but a person is not saved through water baptism. Jesus commissioned the disciples to baptize new converts (Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:16); therefore, water baptism is a sacred ordinance to be obeyed.

In line with biblical authority, the only biblical mode of water baptism is by immersion, and we should practice this symbolic ordinance accordingly. Persons are baptized with the Trinitarian formula (in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). “

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” Matthew 28:19

We do not practice infant baptism, since we do not feel that the child has willfully entered into sin, nor do we find scriptural basis for infant baptism. However, we do believe in and practice the dedication of infants to God. This practice is seen to be in keeping with Jesus' treatment of and statements about children (Mark 10: 14-16).

The Lord's Supper and Foot Washing (2nd & 3rd Ordinance)

The Church Of God In Christ accepts the Lord's Supper as a command of Christ to be obeyed. The Supper is taken in remembrance of Christ's death and sacrifice on the cross. The elements are considered symbolic of the spilled blood and broken body of Christ.

The Lord's Supper is also a time for individual examination. A service of dedication before the Supper may be observed to emphasize the need for commitment to Christ's commands. Observance of the Supper varies among churches. Sometimes the practice of foot-washing accompanies the observance of the Supper. This ancient practice is also an ordinance or command of Christ that symbolizes Christian humility.

Water Baptism

Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to bring us to an understanding that water baptism is the first step of obedience for the new believer and symbolizes a washing away of former sins and identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This step is an essential part of the proper Christian birth. It is the outward symbol of an inward change.

Key Verse: "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2: 11, 12

I. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD "BAPTIZE"?

The English word "baptize" is transliterated from a Greek word, "baptize", which simply means "to dip, to overwhelm, to plunge, to submerge." It actually means "to cause something to be dipped or immersed beneath the surface of water or some other: fluid."

If this word were truly translated, rather than transliterated, the command in the New Testament would read, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28: 19

II. WHY IS THE BELIEVER TO BE BAPTIZED?

It is a requisite (absolutely essential; required; necessary) to every born again believer.

Matthew 3:5-6

Mark 1:4-5

Matthew 3:13-15 Jesus would not allow John to omit baptizing Him – which showed the emphasis upon the importance of baptism of one who had made their alliance with Christ and He had become preeminent in their lives.

Water baptism is an essential part of obedience; it is not optional. To refuse water baptism is to live in disobedience to the revealed Word of God.

III. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITIES FOR WATER BAPTISM?

Baptism in and of itself cannot save anyone. It is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as one's Savior that brings an individual to salvation. Therefore, baptism is only effectual for those who meet certain requirements. Those receiving baptism must have already laid the first two foundation stones in the Christian experience, namely:

A. _____ (Acts 2:38). This means one is not baptized merely because he wants to become part of a church group.

B. _____ (Acts 8: 12; 10:47). This means that one must be old enough to know what they are doing.

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Mark 16: 16

Let's look at some other important facts about Water Baptism

1.

IV. WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

We are baptized simply because it is commanded by God to do so. However, as we respond to the Word of the Lord in faith, some very important things will take place. Every person who goes into the waters of baptism should expect to experience the following, by faith:

A. To be _____ with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Roman 6:3-5, 11; Colossians 2: 12; 3: 1).

In baptism, the old man is crucified. In immersion, the old man is buried. But in rising out of the water, the new man rises to walk in _____ of life.

**“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
Romans 6:4**

B. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6: 11-18).

C. A spiritual _____ and renewal (Acts 22: 16).
The water itself affects no cleansing, but as we respond in faith to the commands of Christ the Holy Spirit works in connection with the God-ordained means.

D. An identification with _____ of the Lord (Acts 2:38; 8:12, 16: 10:48).

Kenyon puts it this way, “Baptism in this sense is equivalent to marriage. When the wife puts on marriage she takes her husband's name and enters into her husband's possessions and has legal right to her husband's home. When the believer is baptized into the name of Christ, he puts on all that is in Christ. He not only puts on the name, but takes his legal rights and privileges in Christ.”

E. A circumcision of the Colossians :2: 11, 12).

V. HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

- A. Scriptural baptism is baptism by (See Question I)
- B. Baptism is to be administered in of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus commanded that baptism was to be administered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28: 19,20), which name the disciples came to see, on the basis of Jesus' ascension and exaltation (Acts 2:33-36), was the Lord Jesus Christ. When they baptized, they baptized in this manner (Acts 2:36-41; 13: 12-16; 35-38; 10:48).

VI. WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BAPTIZED?

Even as the waters of the Red Sea served as a separation between the Egyptian life of slavery and the land of God's provision for the Israelites of old, so the waters of baptism should serve as a permanent landmark in the life of the believer. Baptism should signal three things:

- A. _____ to the old way of life. This means a willingness to sever all connections with ungodliness and those who live in ungodliness.
- B. _____ of living. This means that from baptism on, there will be a determination to live by the principles of God's kingdom.
- C. _____ of Jesus. This means that the person who is baptized should see himself as a follower, a student and a witness to others of all that Jesus stands for.

Conclusion: It is very obvious that baptism is more than just an external experience in the Christian life. God wants to do something lasting and permanent at this special time. Sad to say, many people go down into the waters of baptism dry and come up wet and that is the extent of their experience. But if each individual would respond in faith to all that God says is available in baptism, baptism will be one of the greatest experiences of their Christian walk.