

ONE BAPTISM

Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13

Introduction: There are a lot of different opinions, thoughts, theories, methods and beliefs about baptism. Literally baptism is a type of water burial with a resurrection. Symbolically baptized by the Holy Spirit is a coming out of a type of death into a new type of life. Actually there is but ONE baptism, ONE body, ONE spirit, ONE hope, ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE God, ONE Father. As the Lord's Supper symbolizes the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Baptism represents the work of the Holy Spirit.

I. IT IS THE HIGHEST HONOR

- *Matthew 3:17* - It is a very honored, unique position for when Jesus was baptized, all three of the God-Head were present - Jesus, Son of God in the flesh, the voice of God the Father from the Heavens, and the visible presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.
- *Matthew 3:15* - The first public words of Jesus recorded were these, at His baptism.
- *Matthew 28:19-20* - The last public words of Jesus had instructions about baptism.
 - A fact perhaps not noticed is that the first and last public words of Jesus recorded had to do with Baptism.

II. IT IS IN THE GREATEST NAME

- *Matthew 28:19-20* - Notice Jesus' instructions about whom to baptize people in the "names" of - "The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit."
- *1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Colossians 2:12* - It was God, the Father who planned our salvation - it was God, the Son who worked out (fulfilled God's plan) our salvation - it was God, the Holy Spirit who brought/brings salvation to effectiveness (makes it work).
- Baptism in the names of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, publicly announces that the one being baptized is a disciple of Jesus Christ.

III. IT SYMBOLIZES THE GREATEST DOCTRINES

- *Romans 6:3-5* - Baptism represents "past redemption" - "present regeneration" - being made anew - presents the glorious hope of a "coming resurrection."

IV. IT SYMBOLIZES GREAT FACTS

- *Romans 4:25* - Jesus Christ died for our sins - Jesus Christ was raised for our justification. Jesus died, was buried and was raised from the dead.
 - Jesus Christ's deity and His power brought about our redemption.
- There is none of us righteous, none of us holy, ONLY God can declare that we are when we accept His Son, Jesus Christ.
- The believer in Jesus is dead to the world to his/her sins, and has been raised anew in Jesus Christ.
 - *Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17*
- Baptism symbolizes a new day, a new life, a new hope, a new love, a new dedication.

- Baptism symbolizes the greatest HOPE of the believer and that hope is being raised from the dead as Jesus was.
- **Hebrews 8:5** - Moses followed God's plans, Solomon followed God's plans, exactly.
 - We are to do as they and others did, follow God's plans exactly in Baptism.
 - Exactly as given to John the Baptist - ONE BAPTISM.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - One disciple, ONE baptism - in that order.

V. IT KEEPS WITH THE HIGHEST EXAMPLE

- **John 1** - In this chapter is mentioned things about John the Baptist. He taught, he preached, he baptized by immersion.
 - A committee was sent from the Temple to investigate John for he was preaching "repent, be cleansed" and he was baptizing those who did.
- Remember how Elijah and Naaman? Naaman had leprosy, was sent to Elijah for a cure. It wasn't some medicine or some magic spell that cured him, but doing what Elijah said, although it sounded very strange, he went to the muddy Jordan river and baptized himself seven times and on the seventh time he was cured.
- When John baptized Jesus, it was symbolizing cleanness.

VII. IT KEEPS WITH THE HOLY URGE OF THE BELIEVER'S HEART

- Although commanded to be baptized, it is the first thing that a new believer wants to do. Remember Phillip and the Eunuch? Immediately upon earning the truth about Jesus Christ and about salvation, the eunuch wanted to be baptized and went away rejoicing afterwards.
- Baptism has occurred in all kinds of waters - ditches, creeks, rivers, ponds - BY IMMERSION.
- Believers in Jesus Christ want to be baptized - that is a holy urge from God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Baptism is immersion in water, symbolizing a burial and a resurrection.
 - A person was once dead to God but upon belief in God's Son, Jesus Christ, is raised from being dead into a new eternal life as a child of God's Family.
2. Baptism is ONE - one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one God.
3. Baptism does not save nor keep one saved, it is a step of obedience upon being saved and a public identification with God, the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son and the Holy Spirit and God's Family.
4. Believer, have you followed Jesus' example and been baptized (PROPERLY)?