

Questions People Have about Baptism

The topic of baptism continues to be controversial. Unfortunately, baptism is not being talked about as much today in the Lord's church as it was in times past. Many assume that everyone in the church already has a good grasp of this subject. While others feel baptism has already been emphasized too much. While we may have a good understanding of baptism, unfortunately most people in our community do not. Many people have a lot of questions about baptism. Here are four of them.

I. "Is baptism necessary?"

- A. Most preachers will say "No!"
- B. Jesus says otherwise (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - 1. It is necessary to become a disciple (Matthew 28:19).
 - 2. It is necessary to be saved (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:21).
 - 3. It is necessary to receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
 - 4. It is necessary to have your sins washed away (Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16).
 - 5. It is necessary to be born again (John 3:5).
 - 6. It is necessary to get into Christ (Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 3:26-27).

II. "To whom is baptism commanded?"

- A. Many would say to the "saved."
- B. But in the Bible we find baptism being commanded to lost sinners (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; 2:37-38)

III. "What is the one baptism?" See Ephesians 4:5.

- A. In the Bible we can read about many different kinds of baptisms (Matthew 3:1, 11; Acts 10:44-46). Which is the one that God approves of today?
- B. The one baptism is mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20.
 - 1. Through it people become disciples (vs. 19).
 - 2. It is to be performed on all nations (vs. 19).
 - 3. It is to be done in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (vs. 19).
 - 4. It is to be administered by disciples (vs. 19).
 - 5. It is to be administered until the end of the world (vs. 20).

IV. "When should I be baptized?"

- A. When you are willing to do what God requires before baptism.
 - 1. When you hear the gospel (Romans 10:17).
 - 2. When you believe the gospel (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-37).
 - 3. When you repent (Acts 2:38).
 - 4. When you confess Jesus as God's Son (Acts 8:37).
 - 5. These prerequisites eliminate the ideas of infant baptism, sinless perfection, and having to know the whole Bible before being baptized!
- B. When you are willing to do what God requires after baptism.
 - 1. God wants you to strive to grow (2 Peter 3:18).
 - 2. God wants you to join yourself to a faithful local church (Acts 9:26).
 - 3. God wants you to be committed to Him (Acts 2:42).

Conclusion: Have you submitted to what God says about baptism?