

Baptism 101

Matthew 3

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1. Baptism is designed to be part of conforming to Christ and meant to be a habit practiced by the church.
2. John the Baptist called the people to repent because the Kingdom of God is near.
3. John's impact was enormous, and many were confessing their sins and being baptized as a symbol of their conversion.
4. Jesus was sinless, so His baptism was not an act of repentance but a coronation marking the beginning of His focus toward the cross and resurrection. He was ready to do the work He came to do.
5. In the ancient world, immersion represented purification, restoration, and qualification.
6. The symbol of baptism has become corrupted by legalism and ritualism. The water "purification" of baptism is only as good as the purification of the soul.
7. In Matthew 23, Jesus made the point that what good is it to wash the outside of something if the inside is still dirty?
8. Jesus affirmed His willingness to take on the servant role. As a result, God the Father speaks, and God the Spirit descends on Jesus, God the Son.
9. Baptism is not salvation. It is an indication of obedience to God's call. It's an affirmation of alignment with Christ.
10. The very word "Christian" means "Christ follower" or "one who is of Christ." Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ's command to identify with Him. If we neglect baptism, then we are in disobedience.
11. When we are baptized into Christ, we are symbolically dying with Him and rising to new life—therefore, born again!

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Baptizo (*bap-tid'-zo*); to immerse, submerge; to make whelmed (fully wet)

Meta-noeo (*met-an-o-eh'-o*); to think differently, feel compunction

Noieo (*noy-eh'-o*); to exercise the mind (observe) :- perceive, think, understand

QUOTES

"Obedience to the King of Kings is supreme submission to divine authority, requiring complete, rather than partial compliance with His commands. It involves following God's laws above human authority..."

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Agnes Dei/Worthy Of It All
Every Step
Hosanna
Your Great Name

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jesus contrasts external ritual washing with internal spiritual cleansing (Matthew 23:25-26).

- Where do you see this tension between outward religious practices and inward spiritual transformation in modern church life?

Mark mentions that baptism is "one of the most significant commands given by King Jesus."

- How do you personally view the importance of baptism in one's walk with Jesus?
- Why do you think baptism was so important to Jesus that He would command that his followers be baptized and baptize new followers?
- What are some different ways you understand baptism to be symbolizing spiritual realities?

Matt. 3:15 states that the purpose of Jesus' baptism is to "fulfill all righteousness." Another way to say this is to "be completely aligned with God's will." Mark states that "It's through baptism that Jesus affirms His determination to do the work of the Kingdom"

- In what way(s) do you think Jesus saw His baptism as aligning himself with God's will?
- In light of this understanding of baptism, how would you explain the significance of getting baptized to a new disciple of Jesus?

Have you personally been baptized since becoming a disciple of Jesus?

- If so, when and where did this happen? What was your motivation for doing it?
- If not, why haven't you taken this step so far?

Take a moment to write down any action steps that you feel you need to take in light of this teaching and discussion. [Consider sharing them with one another and praying for their successful follow-through.]