

The Baptist Faith and Message

VIII. Baptism

BF&M Statement: 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.

Baptism and Identification: Baptism is a means of identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and a means of identifying with a local church, identifying us as Christians. Our Spiritual Baptism occurs at salvation and places us into the family of God. Our physical Baptism occurs soon after salvation and places us into the family of the church.

- I. The Commandment to Baptize *Matthew 28:19*
 - A. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost
 - B. By Immersion
 - C. Upon our confession of faith in Christ
 - D. Into membership in the church.

- II. Baptism by the early church
 - A. Added to church as were saved & baptized *Acts 2:37-41 (38,41)*
 - B. Baptized into a local, new testament church.
 1. Salvation before baptism *Acts 8:35-39 (Ethiopian eunuch)*
 2. Note baptism's relevance to membership *I Corinthians 10:2 (baptized as shared identify)*

- III. The identity with Christ
Romans 6:3-12, II Corinthians 5:17
 - A. Death, burial, resurrection of Christ & of the believer.
 - B. Old life exchange for new life in Christ.
 - C. Identifying us as a renewed member of the church.

- IV. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Identifies us as Christians. *I Corinthians 12:13*
 - B. Indwelling upon salvation. *Romans 8:9*
 - C. Gods Seal upon us. *Ephesians 4:30*