

The Dynamics of Baptism

Matthew 18:19-20

➤ Introduction

Read Scripture Matthew 18:19-20

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

The word Baptize is transliterated from the word *baptizo* which means to immerse or plunge.

To cleanse by dipping or submerging.

Used out the New Testament in that manner always with the same meaning.

Another metaphoric meaning is “to overwhelm”.

Again, you see the meaning is immersion or submersion.

Simply no way to derive that the word means sprinkling or anything but immersion.

Mark 1:9,10 says that Jesus “was baptized by John in the Jordan” then adds “straightway coming up out of the water.”

John 3:23 “John was baptizing in Aenon near Salin because there was much water there”.

There are Greek words for sprinkling which new testament writers could have used but did not.

Clearly, immersion is the biblical method of baptism.

But, that doesn’t necessarily mean our Methodist friends are totally wrong.

Baptism was exemplified by our Lord.

Reluctantly, John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

There has been much discussion about why Jesus was baptized.

Suffice it to say he was and God took the opportunity to declare “this is my son in whom I am well pleased.”

Our Lord set an example for us to follow and we should all desire to do just that.

➤ What are the dynamics of Baptism?

1. **Baptism is an important act of obedience commanded by our Lord.**

In our text, Jesus commands that the disciples go out making more disciples / believers and baptizing them.

Baptism does not effect salvation.

Baptism does not buy your salvation, the blood of Christ has done that.

Baptism is not regenerative.

That said, every time someone became a believer in the Bible, they were commanded to be baptized.

Peter ..people responded on the day of Pentecost, instructed them to repent and be baptized.

Phillip leading the Ethiopian to Christ, his first response was “what is hindering me from being baptized?”

Baptism is an act that God requires of every believer.

Why do you think it is so important?

Why are we always commanded to be baptized immediately following salvation?

Because it is our first act of obedience!

If we don't do it, we probably don't mean business and will do be obedient with anything else.

Illus: An employee who defies your first order of instruction.

Illus: Charles Spurgeon said, "If God commands this thing no matter how simple it may seem, if I say What for? I cannot have taken the place which faith ought to occupy, which is that of simple obedience to whatever the Lord hath said. Baptism is commanded, and faith obeys because it is commanded, and thus takes her proper place."

"A living faith produces an obedient heart."

Baptism is a step of faith.

2. **Baptism is the new believers early opportunity to witness.**

Baptism does not save us but it is all about our salvation experience.

Baptism represents the death and resurrection of Christ.

Paul spoke of being buried with Christ in baptism and raised with Him through faith - Col 2:12.

Baptism is a believer's testimony that we believe in the death and resurrection.

It's A testimony that we accept the gift of God's grace through Christ.

It's a testimony that our sins are forgiven and that we are born again to be a new Creature in Christ.

We have become a child of God.

Symbol of what Christ has done in our life. Implies sprinkling might be Ok for some.

I reluctantly use the word symbol because baptism is so much more.

When we are saved, we are spiritually baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27) and into His Body, the church (1 Cor 12:13).

Baptism in water is an outward representation of these inward realities.

What a witness!

What a declaration being declared to all present and those hearing of our baptism.

In some places baptism can be a very bold step.

It is an important step regardless of the risk.

Baptism is a declaration of faith.

3. **Baptism is a powerful worship experience for believers.**

For believers present at baptism, it is a wonderful worship experience.

It is a vivid reminder of what has taken place in our lives with Christ.

It should be a wake-up call to reflect on just what God has done in our life.

Baptism is an opportunity to reflect on the great gift of God's grace.

Baptism is God's way of making His grace real to us.

Are you struggling with guilt over your past? Give the person you once were a burial and be baptized.

Jesus says we must eat of His flesh and drink of His blood. Not physically but spiritually.

Baptism is a time when we spiritually consume his death and resurrection and grow spiritually.

It is a time to rejoice with a new Christian who has declared salvation experience.

Wonderful time of rejoicing with someone who will live in eternity with God.

Baptism is a celebration of faith.

4. Baptism is a cherished experience for life.

Illus: My wedding ring is a symbol of my marriage. A constant reminder of my commitment.

Baptism is a valuable reminder, cherished memory of that important moment.

It's that rich procession that no one can ever take away from you.

Baptism is in essence a funeral.

It is an act of faith in which we testify to God and the world that the person we were before is dead and buried and we are raised in newness of life.

It is a marking point of the time when your direction changed from your journey to God's journey.

Baptism is a treasure of faith.

➤ **Conclusion**

Illus: For me, Baptism is the moment when my life changed forever. It is the moment when I went from being a fatherless boy to a child of the King.

Baptism is Baptism. There is no supplement and one must experience it to understand.

Baptism is a God thing. There is nothing in man's bag of fun that even compares.

Invitation

Perhaps you have been carrying a deep secret about baptism. You can get that right today.

Perhaps you are hungry for that salvation of which we speak. You can come to know Christ today.

Perhaps you want to become a part of this church.

Whatever God is saying to you this morning, respond to His spirit.