

DISTINCTIVES: BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

(Colossians 2:10-14)

4 Doctrinal Distinctives: (Open-handed **written in pencil** VS. Closed Handed/**writ in stone**)

1. The Sovereignty of God in Salvation. =**God-centered**. We cannot earn salvation/cannot lose it!
2. Biblical Complementarianism; Biblical Roles for men/women (home/Church); "**It bib& beautiful**"
3. Spiritual Gifts: Continuationist Vs. Cessationist
4. Believer's Baptism Vs. Paedobaptism. Immersion Vs. Sprinkling

WHY is the WELL a Baptist Church? What does it mean that we have Baptist roots?

-***Every** Christian Church IS a Baptist Church/Every den. last 2k years have practiced baptism.

We, and EVERY other N.T. Church, is a Baptist Church/Baptistic Church-*whether in "name" or not*

-**WHY?** B/c **Baptism is a command** of Jesus. Matthew 28:19 "**As you Go make Disc....baptizing**

-It is a **Biblical** command, Peter Acts 2:38 "**Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.**"

-Baptism is a disciple's formal **entrance** into Christ's Church via profession/testimony & identifying with Jesus' death (through the willing death of our old life; burial; raising to new life)

Baptism is God's idea: It's a beautiful, spiritual, tangible symbol where life imitates

READ: Colossians 2:10-14

"and in Jesus you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority; ¹¹ and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² **having been buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in your wrongdoings [sins] and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, ¹⁴ having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." -**Don't miss this Gospel moment** (What Jesus has done for sinners like you)...

*Just as Circumcision was a physical sign that God's covenant people belonged to God, so Baptism acts in a way as a spiritual and physical symbol [permanent mark] of our entrance into the Church -through salvation & then being baptized publicly. In Baptism, we show we **BELONG** to Christ & His Church. The act of Baptism is outward **identity** w/ Christ.

Where did Baptism come from?

Jewish ritual washing/bathing (**Ablution**): Full Immersion (b/c whole body was unclean)

-Ex. 30:20 "**When they enter the tabernacle they shall wash with water so that they do not die.**" -Lev. 15:31 "**And so you shall keep the sons of Israel separated from their uncleanness, so they will not die in uncleanness by defiling My tabernacle.**" - How to clean self? **WATER**

*Isaiah 1:16 "**wash yourselves, make yourselves clean: remove the evil of your deeds from my sight and stop doing evil.**" = O.T. washing/ritual cleansing was a practice which foreshadowed the Messiah; the need to be perfectly cleansed and pure by being washed.

-O.T. command to be and stay ritually clean/pure (through ritual bathing); different than hygienic bathing (different than cisterns, bathtubs, bathhouses, swimming pools). =**Mikveh**
The ritual purification cleansing/bathing was not just to go to Temple. Mikvah's were found throughout Palestine AFTER the Temple was destroyed in 70AD.

=To Purify oneself was to ritually bathe 7X, fully immersed in water; Unmixed (b/c nude); clothes

(Hebrew *Tabal*: to plunge into; Grk: *Baptizo*: Immerse (sink; plunge; drown; cover in water)

-**John the Baptizer/Immerser** =His point =be baptized/immersed **for spiritual cleansing** (moral cleansing) =physical symbol and tangible act which represented a spiritual reality

-**Jesus** (as a boy, teen, man) was baptized ritually; Jesus would have been dirty physically though never unclean ritually/morally. To go to Temple =Ablution (ritual purification)=water

-***Jesus was baptized** by John the Baptist as an example that moral & spiritual baptism done physically/symbolically was God's will; by participating in baptism, ***Jesus was affirming both John's ministry** (making way for the Messiah to enter and declare God's Kingdom arrived) **AND** Jesus was affirming the ministry of spiritual and moral cleansing (knowing that what God desires is clean hearts, not just ritually clean bodies).

=SO, John was baptizing with the emphasis on being clean spiritually before the Lord =be holy

-**Jesus affirmed Baptism in His earthly ministry:** -John 4:1 "So then, when the Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist, (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were), ³ He left Judea and went away again to Galilee."

-**Jesus commanded** that all disciples in every nation be baptized in Name of Holy Trinity:

-SO... after Jesus' death and resurrection, new Believers were baptized/immersed not just spiritually (in a moral renewal), **but IN Jesus' Name** and in the likeness of His death, burial, and resurrection to New Life. -Romans 6:4 "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

=Thus, the symbol of baptism was still about moral/spiritual/inward cleansing & holiness, but **NOW BAPTISM** also took on a more powerful symbol of death (& burial) of the old life (unclean and dead life) to be raised (like Christ) into a NEW life (as a new creation) walking in the newness of life =eternal life. AS **Jesus did this physically**=died/raised, We, now as New Believers, **identify with Jesus** spiritually/symbolically in the act of baptism =**entrance into Ch.**

SO WHAT NOW? What is the Biblical Mandate?=All N.T. Churches **are** Baptist Churches!! WHY?

1. B/C We are called to be baptized as new believers, new disciples: "**Repent & Be baptized** in J Thus, **the act of baptism is an act of obedience**. [2 Ordinances (commands)]. **A. Be Baptized. B. Participate in Lord's Supper** = both are acts of worship, thanksgiving, gratitude, and symbolic gospel profession of Jesus' life, death, burial, & resurrection.

=***We practice living & holy symbols of **His Sacrifice** as a reminder & as a profession of the gospel to the Church, the Community, and the Lost watching world. =**Orthopraxy has a purpose**

2. We are called to be baptized as new Believers, **AFTER** conversion. (There is no biblical instances of newborns being baptized). New Disciples (New Believers) are baptized when they are converted. (Acts

3. We are called to **profess our faith** as part of our baptismal experience. Here we give our testimonies of being converted & how. This is our public profession of Faith as part of our identifying with Jesus as His Child, bought with His blood, and called out as a new disciple to live for His glory! Lk 12:8 Jesus says: "**Everyone who confesses me before people, the Son of man will confess before the angels of God...If you deny me, I'll deny you before the Father.**"

-Baptism is **NOT** just a religious act, a religious rite, a rite of passage, a conferring of salvation or of the Holy spirit. Infant Baptism (Catholic, Anglican, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist) cannot save a child. Infant Baptism does **NOT** erase original sin; does not guarantee a child going to heaven. The Roman Catholic Church has lied to you about this.

Where is it in Bible?

-**Baptism cannot save you!** The act of Baptism is **NOT** an efficacious sign or sacrament whereby the conferring of the symbol mysteriously saves the individual -1 Cor. 1:17 “**For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel**” =we cannot/should not conflate salvation with baptism. Believer’s Baptism follows salvation/conversion of heart.

-If you are not baptized, but are a Believer, then you not being baptized does not mean you are not saved. However, faithful disciples of Jesus ARE baptized AND being baptized stands in 2k years of faithful church tradition – **Salvation comes from FAITH** (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:13)

-Baptism is **NOT** a covenantal sign or symbol for babies/infants as tied to O.T. Circumcision (Lutheran, Reformed). Babies are **NOT** forgiven of their original sin through Baptism (Roman Catholic) =(unbiblical) and Baptism is NOT a promise to the child that one day he/she will be saved and later confirmed in their own decision to become believers. (These are all man-made traditions and have led millions and millions astray into a false hope of salvation that b/c they were sprinkled as a baby somehow their souls are good with God. This is a lie. A very clever lie. But a lie nonetheless).

-The Bible is clear that salvation is **individual** (not conferred by parents or because you were in a Christian family; Salvation is also **personal**, it is a personal decision to willfully surrender to Jesus as Savior and Lord. This is a moment in time. Baptism cannot confer salvation.

-Baptism does NOT wash away our sins. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away sins (1 Jn 1:7; Rev. 1:5)

-What is your next step in obedience to the Lord as it concerns baptism??