

SESSION 2

NEW LIFE

Session 2 Teaching on New Life in Baptism

When you enter the waters of baptism, you are proclaiming that Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and lives again. By joining Him in baptism, you are identifying yourself with Him. Romans 6:4 says you have been buried with Him through baptism into death. Your old life of walking in sin is buried in death. Being raised up out of the water expresses your new life in Jesus Christ and your union with Him. If the meaning of baptism could be boiled down to one word, that word would be identification. Baptism speaks primarily of a personal, public identification with Jesus Christ.

How important is your baptism? It is your personal identification with the greatest act of human history—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism doesn't save you—salvation comes by faith alone (**Ephesians 2:8–9**). Your guilt before God is removed the moment you trust in Christ. Baptism is your personal testimony to, and the inward assurance of, your passage from the old life to the new life...

How Baptism Relates to Salvation in Christ:

1. Baptism relates as you bury the old life of sin and raise a new life in Jesus Christ.
2. Baptism relates as you publicly identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
3. Baptism relates as you publicly join other believers who follow Christ.

When you are baptized, you visually preaching the gospel. As you stand in the water waiting to be baptized, (A) you symbolize Jesus dying on the cross. As you are lowered into the water, (B) you symbolize Jesus buried in the tomb. As you are raised from the water, C, you symbolize Jesus rising from the dead. The water of baptism is a symbol of the spiritual cleaning that Jesus offers us (1 Peter 3:21)!

And since you personally are being baptized, you are also saying, "I died with Jesus Christ, I was buried with him and now I am raised with Christ to brand-new life."

In short, in your baptism you are preaching a sermon without using any words at all. And your sermon in your baptism will be more effective with your friends than any sermon the pastor preaches on Sunday morning—more effective because it comes directly from you. Baptism is like a wedding ring. We put on a wedding ring as a symbol of our commitment and devotion. In the same way, baptism is a picture of devotion and commitment to Christ. A wedding ring reminds us and tells others that we belong to someone special. In the same way, baptism reminds us and others that we are devoted to Christ and belong to Him.

Many think, since they were “sprinkled” in Baptism as a child, that there is NO need to be baptized as an adult. **There IS a difference.** Infant baptism arose from the teachings of some early second and third-century church fathers that baptism washed away sin. In their teaching, this meant that if you died without being baptized then you died with your sins unforgiven and thus went to Hell (or purgatory as that concept developed over time). With the high infant mortality rate in the early centuries, the concept of baptizing babies as soon as possible came into vogue. Since it is not necessarily good to push baby heads underwater, the idea of sprinkling took hold. Again, the word baptism does not mean “sprinkle or “pour.” The Greek word “baptizo” literally means to “**dip**” or to “**immerse!**”

We baptize after salvation because that follows every example we have and since baptism pictures how we’ve been saved, it needs to be after that has happened in our lives. **So, in order to take YOUR next steps in your relationship with Jesus Christ, it’s important to take the symbolic step of baptism.**

Discuss or Ponder and Review Scripture Before Baptism:

- **Review Scripture and then ponder or discuss these questions:**

1 Peter 3:21 – “and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ..”

Colossians 2:12 – “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Ephesians 4:4-6 – “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Acts 22:16 – “And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

- **Why is baptism important to you?**
- **What is the meaning of baptism for you?**