



VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH



DISCOVER BAPTISM & COMMUNION



Name:

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DISCOVER BAPTISM

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BAPTISM

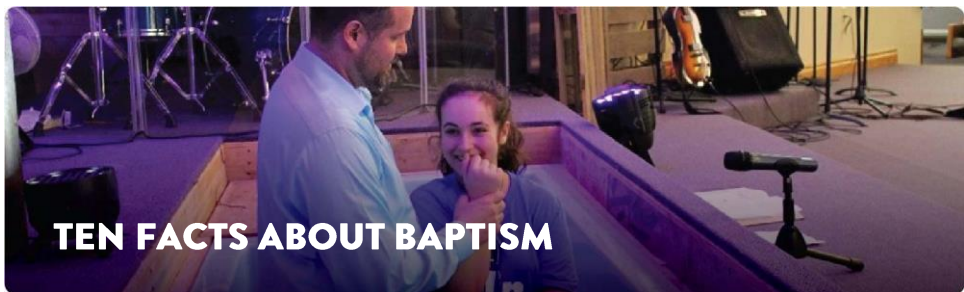


It is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. We live in an increasingly visually-oriented society. What people hear is often impactful, but what they both hear and then see demonstrated before their very eyes impacts them all the more. Water baptism is just such a picture.

When we are born physically, we are automatically identified with the earthly nation into which we are born. When the Holy Spirit of God brings us to life spiritually in Christ, the Bible says we are born again. At the moment the Holy Spirit gave us spiritual birth – that is, at the moment we repented of our sins and trusted Christ’s death as payment for them – at that very moment we were placed (baptized, dipped, immersed) into Christ’s Body (the Church universal), the present manifestation of God’s Kingdom (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13).

Once we have trusted Christ as our Savior, the Scriptures command us to give public testimony of our faith by means of water baptism. Water baptism is God’s creative way of picturing our salvation. It helps us visualize what happened to us when we were born again. Water baptism, like a picture, helps us tell others what Christ did for us on Calvary and openly identifies us with Him. Through water baptism, we are publicly identifying ourselves with Christ – with His death, His burial and His resurrection (Romans 6:1-5).

Water baptism in no way contributes to our spiritual birth. It simply bears witness to the fact that we have trusted Christ and have been born again. It is, in essence, the first step in discipleship – the first step in following Jesus as our Master and Lord.



TEN FACTS ABOUT BAPTISM

1

Baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord's command and follows His example.

2

Baptism is a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ.

3

Baptism is symbolic of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

4

Baptism is symbolic of our washing/cleansing from sin.

5

Baptism is symbolic of what God has accomplished in the life of a believer.

6

Baptism is a symbolic entrance point into the Body of Christ, the Church.

7

Baptism is for believers only.

8

Baptism is immersion into water.

9

Baptism is in the Trinitarian Name.

10

Baptism is a blessing.



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

All who can genuinely answer yes to the following questions should be baptized.

1

Are you a sinner deserving of God's eternal judgement?

2

Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son, sent to save sinners by His perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection?

3

Have you repented of your sins and placed your faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sins and for the fulfillment of all His promises to you, even eternal life?

4

Do you now desire to place yourself under the lordship of Jesus Christ, and do you intend by faith to follow Jesus as Lord and obey His teachings?



PREPARING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

It is very important for any Christian interested in effectively sharing Jesus Christ to have an effective, concise testimony. A testimony is simply sharing what Christ has done in our lives. It is a very powerful tool if developed properly. Revelation 12:11 tells us, “And they overcome him (Satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony.” Jesus, when He healed the demonic of Gerasenes, told him this, “Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you and how he has had mercy on you” (Mark 5:19). A positive, clearly presented, two-minute testimony can be very helpful in encouraging people to respond to Jesus Christ.

There are several things to do as you prepare your testimony:

1

Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance before you begin.

2

Develop it around a three-point outline

- A.** My life before knowing Christ
- B.** How I came to know Christ
- C.** My life after I received Christ (what He has helped you with, how He has affected your life, etc...)

3

Tips to help you as you write your testimony.

- A. Emphasize what has happened since you received Christ (Jesus told the demonic to “return...and describe what great things God has done for you.”)
- B. Make your first sentence interesting and attention-getting. Close with a good conclusion.
- C. Write in such a way that a non-Christian can identify with you.
- D. Be positive, not negative, from the start to the finish. Don’t present Christianity as problem-free; be realistic. Share exactly what Christ has helped you with and what He means to you now.
- E. Be specific.
- F. Use Scripture – Share a meaningful Bible verse and why that verse is important to you
- G. Be sure to explain how you came to know God personally.

4

Avoid the following:

- A. Clichés that are meaningless to the non-Christian, such as: “blessings,” “born again,” “Praise God,” “conversion,” “glorious.”
- B. Vague generalities about what has happened in your life. Be specific.
- C. Being critical of any churches, denominations, or individuals.
- D. Using too many of the same words, such as: fantastic, exciting, great, etc.
- E. Preaching – just share your experience.



TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

My life before knowing Christ:

How I came to know Christ:

My life after I received Christ:

Also, try to include a Scripture or two that are meaningful to you.



1

Bring appropriate clothing for wearing into the water.

2

Bring a towel and hair dryer.

3

Bring a plastic bag for your wet clothes

4

Bring dry clothes to change back into (don't forget socks, underwear, etc.)

5

Bring your written testimony with you.

6

Once you have been baptized, exit the baptismal on the same side that you entered.

COMMUNION



Christians have been celebrating the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20), known also as the Lord's Table or Communion (1 Corinthians 10:16), for about two thousand years – ever since Christ instructed His disciples to continue to do so until He returns.

Unlike baptism, which is a one-time event, the Lord's Supper is a practice meant to be observed over and over again throughout the life of a Christian. It is a holy time of worship when we come together as a body to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us. Ever since Jesus instituted this practice at the Last Supper, it has served as a beautiful reminder of the sacrifice of His body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf. It is a sign of our continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death.

As we participate in the Lord's Supper, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body. In addition, when we approach the Lord's Table in faith, accompanied by self-examination, we receive spiritual nourishment for our souls.



FOUR IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF COMMUNION

THE PRINCIPLE: The Real Meaning of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was established by Christ.

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church.

The Lord's Supper is symbolic in nature.

THE PURPOSE: To Remember Christ

The Lord's Supper is a memorial to remind us of Christ's death.

PARTICIPATION: The Requirements for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is for baptized believers who are walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with other believers.

The Lord's Supper is part of the natural progression of our discipleship and is to be celebrated in an ongoing manner.

The Lord's Supper should be taken in a worthy manner.

THE PLACE: The Role of the Church

The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated within the context of gatherings of believers in Christ.

The Lord's Supper is for the church.

The Lord's Supper is to be administered by the elders of the church.

THE PROFIT: Our Response to Christ

The Lord's Supper encourages us.

The Lord's Supper encompasses us.

Observance of the Lord's Supper is multi-dimensional. When we come to the Table of the Lord, it is appropriate to look in three directions:

We look behind – to the past event of Christ's death.

We look ahead -- to the future event of Christ's return.

We look within – to the present work of Christ's Spirit.

CONCLUSION

Just as people were not made for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath was made for people (Mark 2:27), so people were not made for the Lord's Supper, but the Lord's Supper was made for people. The Lord's Supper was not given as a ritual for us to follow mindlessly or to infuse us with special grace from God. Rather, our Lord gave us this ordinance as an external expression of our inward faith, to encourage us to remember His sacrifice for sin and to renew our commitment to follow Him with our whole heart.



VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH

For more information on Village Bible Church Teaching
Positions go to villagebible.church/positions