Baptism

Study Guide
OTHER EXAMPLES OF BAPTISMS IN THE BIBLE
Every baptism in the New Testament is by immersion (going fully under the water). Baptism in the Early Church

Read Acts 2:36-38. (Read the entire chapter if possible)

(Peter speaking to the crowd) 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

THINK ABOUT IT
How would you summarize the main thrust of Peter’s message (verses 14-36)?
________________________________________________________________
What was the people’s response?
________________________________________________________________
What did Peter tell them to do, in answer to their heartfelt response?
(Two things) _____________________ and _____________________
What did Peter say they would then receive? (Also two things)
____________________________ and ____________________________

Read Acts 8:35-39.

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” 37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

What did the eunuch have to do prior to being baptized?
________________________________________________________________
Was the eunuch baptized by immersion or sprinkling?
________________________________________________________________
How did the Eunuch feel after he was baptized?
________________________________________________________________
The Bible beautifully explains baptism

The Bible teaches that there is great significance and meaning in baptism by immersion. While the above reasons are certainly factual and good ones, our teaching and practice regarding baptism is also driven by the rich and wonderful meaning that the Bible itself ascribes to immersion for adult believers.

Baptism in the writings of Paul

Read Romans 6:4-5. (Read verses 3-11, or the whole chapter, if possible.)

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

What does baptism symbolize?

________________________________________________________________

How does immersion completely under water show this?

________________________________________________________________

Baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual reality.

We believe that this powerful imagery from Romans 6 is God’s intention. Paul uses intentionally drastic language here: Baptism represents a death … and a burial and resurrection! It symbolizes dying to sin, burial with Christ, and being raised up to live a new life in Him! It truly is a beautiful and powerful picture of our new life in Christ.
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

1. Pray.
   Pray over this study guide and the scriptures and principles in it. Ask God to show you what you should do.

2. Contact us.
   If you decide you are ready to be baptized, contact the church office at 281.980.7070 or at: contactus@firstcolonychurch.org We will be happy to schedule your baptism at any time – either during one of our worship services, or if you prefer, at a smaller gathering of close friends and family. We have baptized people in rivers, lakes, and swimming pools in addition to the baptistery in our church building. We just want to make sure you have people there to celebrate with you during this wonderful occasion!
   Once you have scheduled your baptism, invite friends and your family to come to the party and watch.

   On the day of your baptism, be sure to bring a change of clothes, a towel (towels are provided for baptisms in the church building), and any personal items that you might need. We will go over the “practical how to’s” of the baptism with you before the ceremony.

CONCLUSION

We practice baptism by immersion for all who have put their confidence (faith / trust) in Christ, along with repentance (a turning from the old life) and a confession of their commitment to live a new life in Christ.

This is in keeping with the Bible’s clear teaching and example, and it is also the normal practice of the Church during its’ first 1000 years.

Baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and our personal identification with Him by dying to our own sin and being raised to walk in a new life with him. It also symbolizes our sin being washed away.

While baptism does not save us (it is not “magic water”), it is a beautiful picture of the salvation that is given to us by grace and through faith in Christ.

We hope you can see that this is not something we take lightly, but rather it is something we see as important, beautiful, and God-given. It is not for the sake of “following rules to get saved.” We are all saved by God’s grace! We believe that sacraments such as baptism and communion are a vital part of the Christian life, and our desire is to follow the Bible’s teaching.

**Being baptized in the way that Jesus was will also accomplish the following:**

- It will show others the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and how you have died to your sin and have been raised to walk in a new life with Christ. It is one of the greatest ways to witness to your friends and family. It will demonstrate to them exactly why you have changed and what God is doing in your life. If you were looking for an opportunity to tell everyone at once, here it is!

- It will solidify an adult commitment to following Christ, and serve as a vivid milestone in your Christian walk.

- It will be an example for children and youth who are old enough to consider commitment to Christ and following Him in baptism. It will also encourage other adults who may need to follow Christ in baptism.

**Please let us know if you have any questions, or if you would like to meet with someone for prayer, discussion, or further study.**

We are so glad you are considering this important sacrament, and we pray the Lord will bless you as you study and pray over this matter!