

WATER BAPTISM

(This is designed to be a twenty-minute sermon, with time left for questions and an altar call.)

Water baptism is a New Testament Christian sacrament. A Christian sacrament is a solemn rite or obligation that is practiced by those who believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. A holy, sacred act signifies agreement, commitment and remembrance of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. Water baptism is a personal witness or testimony. (There are other sacraments practiced by Christians.)

Instructions: Emphasize that water baptism is **NOT something we do to make something happen.**

- 1. It is **NOT** something that makes you more holy.**
- 2. It is **NOT** a REQUIREMENT for salvation.**

READ ROMANS 3:20-21

(Romans 3:20-21 NLT) “For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it. Christ Took Our Punishment But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight—not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago. We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.”

We are saved because of our faith in Jesus Christ. It is because of the work He did by dying on the cross for our sins... period.

There is only one way to be saved. You must confess your sins, believing that Jesus is the Son of God, and receiving the forgiveness of the cross.

READ ROMANS 10:9-10

(Romans 10:9-10 NLT) “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”

Baptism is not what saves you, but it is **AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP**.

- 3. Baptism is **NOT AN OPTION**. Every time someone was saved in the book of Acts [early church], baptism followed.**

Instructions: Go through the following Scriptures and elaborate on what you believe will best get the message across to your listeners.

ACTS 2:38-41	The very first believers were Jews. The start of the church was at Pentecost.
ACTS 8:5-12	Philip preaches in Samaria. People respond in faith by being baptized.
ACTS 8:26-40	Philip teaches the Ethiopian eunuch who responds by being baptized.
ACTS 9:18	The Conversion of Saul
ACTS 10:47-48	The “Gentile Pentecost” - God shows Peter the Gospel message is not for Jews alone.
ACTS 16:15	the conversion of Lydia and her household
ACTS 16:16-33	Paul and Silas’ jailer (and his household) respond in faith and are immediately baptized.
ACTS 18:8	Crispus, the synagogue ruler
ACTS 19:3-5	Those that had not heard yet of Jesus are baptized.
ACTS 22:16	Paul’s story revisited - his sins are washed away, calling on the name of the Lord in baptism.

WHAT BAPTISM IS:

- 1. Baptism is an OUTWARD sign of an INWARD work.**

READ ROMANS 6:3 (NLT)

(Romans 6: 3 NLT) “Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”

Instructions: Explain how water baptism becomes an outward sign of an inward work.

- 2. Baptism is AN EXAMPLE set by Jesus.**

READ MATTHEW 13:16 (NLT)

Matthew 3: 13-16 “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Notice verse 16: **Jesus came up out of the water**. The word Baptism actually comes from the Greek word, *Baptizo*, that means to “**fully immerse**.”

Water baptism is a symbolic illustration of the death, burial and resurrected life of a believer.

3. Baptism is a way for you to **IDENTIFY** with the death of Christ.

READ COLOSSIANS 2:12 (NLT)

(Colossians 2:12 NLT) “and you were 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.”

Instructions: Briefly explain what it means to identify with something or someone.

4. Baptism is **A COMMAND** of Christ. It is one piece of the fulfillment of your new life in Christ.

A command is a word from God about which there is no option and from which there is no retreat.

READ MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NLT)

(Matthew 28:19-20 NLT) “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. {20} Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Baptism means that YOU ARE SERIOUS about your commitment to serve God. Baptism PLEASES God. Baptism points back to the work of God and forward to the life of faith.

Instructions: Use the following illustration or find another to substitute for it, or use both.

Illustration: The story is told that when the Gospel was first preached on the island of Barbados, several accepted the invitation to be baptized. When they arrived at the water for the baptismal service, the women were dressed in nightgowns and the men in striped pajamas. The missionaries were afraid this might be misunderstood, and urged the candidates to change their clothes. They refused. The missionaries allowed it reluctantly and decided to be sure this did not happen the next time. Before the next baptismal service,

the missionaries attended a funeral and noticed the corpse was dressed in pajamas. It was explained, “We believe when a person dies, he goes to sleep, so we are buried in our sleep wear.” Then, the missionary understood. The baptism had been explained as a burial, and the candidates wore their burial clothes. (Source unknown)

Instructions: Ask if there are any questions. Be prepared to give brief, clear answers. (Be willing to spend the time necessary. If there are questions that are argumentative or will take a long time to answer, tell them you will get with them after the service or contact them the next day.)

Altar Call

- 1. Ask if anyone wants to give his or her lives to Christ.**
- 2. Have someone with a pen and paper or laptop standing by. Ask who would like to sign up for water baptism.**