

Baptism by Immersion

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Two Christians, who were neighbors, disagreed over the mode of baptism. One believed in sprinkling and the other in immersion. The Christian who believed in sprinkling went away on a trip and asked his neighbor (the immersionist) to watch his horse while he was on vacation. While gone, the horse died. The neighbor called the man and asked what he should do with his horse. The neighbor told him to bury the

horse. Well, the man who believed in baptism by immersion (being buried under the water) thought he would teach his neighbor a lesson who believed in baptism by sprinkling. Instead of burying the horse under the ground he put the horse in the neighbor's front yard and sprinkled some dirt on it. He left the horse there for five days and it began to stink. Finally, the neighbor returned and saw the horse lying in the yard with just a little dirt sprinkled on it.

He went over to his neighbor and said, "I thought I told you to bury my horse." The neighbor replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I thought I would give a visual lesson on how you view baptism by sprinkling. Your horse was sprinkled and not buried. And your horse was baptized in the same way you were – sprinkled and not buried." The Christian neighbor went on to say, "Bible baptism means burial and that is what you need to do as a Christian – be baptized by immersion (burial under the water)."

Our study is on this very subject – baptism by immersion. Immersion or submersion means to place under the water. Immersion is both the PICTURE and PRACTICE of New Testament baptism. The modes of sprinkling or pouring do not accurately convey the truth of our completed salvation and victory in Jesus Christ. Only the Biblical practice of immersion (placing one underneath the water) portrays the picture of our salvation and victory in Christ.

Although many Christians were sincere when they were sprinkled or when water was poured over their heads, these modes are not Scriptural modes of baptism. Actually, these modes are not a Biblical baptism. Remember that sincerity does not mean something is right. We must cut through all the traditions of Protestantism and Catholicism about baptism and see what the Bible actually says on the subject of baptism. The Bible does not teach that sprinkling or pouring is a proper picture of the believer's new birth, new life, their deliverance from sin's power, and a believer's desire to follow Christ as His disciple.

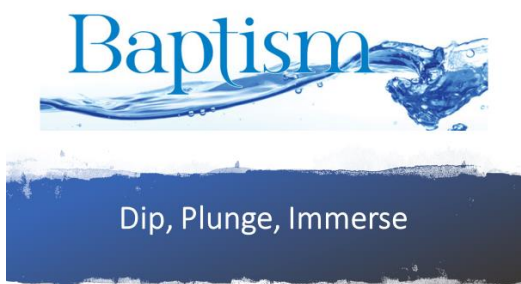


The Bible teaches that in a SPIRITUAL sense we were identified with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (we shared in these events with Christ) which provides us with a COMPLETE and TOTAL victory over sin that leads to a new way of life ("newness of life" - Rom. 6:4). In a PHYSICAL sense our water baptism pictures this spiritual and victorious transaction that occurred at the time of salvation. This means that sprinkling and pouring is not the proper way to demonstrate salvation's complete deliverance from sin and Satan's power through our new birth and victory in Christ.

Why should a Christian or believer in Jesus Christ be immersed?

There are four reasons why we should be immersed.

1. The study of the word baptism supports immersion.



We should be immersed because the word "baptize" is the Greek word "baptizo" which literally means to dip or immerse. The word literally translates "to dip, plunge or immerse." It is used in secular Greek of dyeing a garment, immersing it so that it is thoroughly covered. It is also used to describe a boat that has sunk beneath the water.

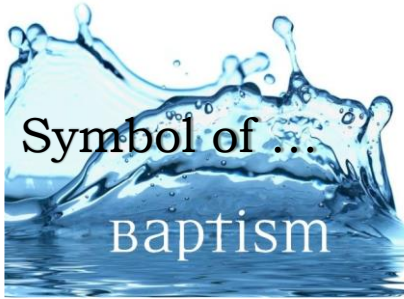
This word would have been easier to understand in our Bible if it were literally translated as the word immersed. This is because the word baptism means immersion. There are other Greek words for sprinkling and pouring but none of the writers of Scripture used them. The word immerse is an appropriate translation. It conveys that immersion or submersion is the biblical mode of baptism. A.T. Robertson concluded that the word "baptism" always means immersion. He said, "There is nothing in the NT to offset this obvious and inevitable interpretation."

Some suggest they know the reason why the words for baptism were not literally translated in our Bible as immerse. Centuries ago, when the Bible was first translated into English in Great Britain, the Anglican Church in Britain practiced sprinkling as its mode of baptism. The meaning of the word is clear, but the translators did not wish to come into conflict with the beliefs of the Church of England, so they decided not to *translate* it literally, but *transliterated* it instead. Well, we cannot be sure about this, but we do know that the word baptism means immersion.

The picture we see in Scripture of baptism (a burial) supports the meaning of the word baptism (immersion). As we will see, the picture of water baptism is likened to a burial in Scripture because it means to be submerged or taken underneath the water (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12). This ceremony (submersion) aligns with the actual meaning and understanding of the word baptize.

Again, it is ONLY baptism by immersion that displays the proper testimony and picture of a believer's identification with Jesus Christ in His saving and sanctifying (life-transforming) work – spiritual identification with His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6). This brings us to our next point.

2. The symbolism of baptism supports immersion.



Water baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the spiritual IDENTIFICATION of the believer with Him in these events. Christian baptism is a voluntary ceremony whereby a person publicly declares he has come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Christian baptism is performed by dipping or submersing the believer under water and lifting him up again. Baptism by immersion symbolically represents the believer's acceptance of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to grant them salvation, forgiveness of their sins, and give them a new birth which results in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-5 speaks of our complete salvation and victory that we have been given through sharing in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, through the Holy Spirit's work of placing us in union with Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27). This salvation and spiritual victory is PICTURED or SYMBOLIZED by our water baptism which demonstrates our desire to walk in victory and newness of life.

Millard Erickson states:

"In Romans 6:3-5, Paul appears to be contending that there is a significant connection between how baptism is administered (one is lowered into the water and then raised out of it) and what it symbolizes (death to sin and new life in Christ—and beyond that, baptism symbolizes the basis of the believer's death to sin and new life: the death, burial and resurrection of Christ)."

Many people ask what I believe Romans chapter six is teaching – Spirit or water baptism. My answer is always the same. It is clearly teaching the THEOLOGY of Holy Spirit baptism while at the same time it is giving us the PICTURE of water baptism. Both are inseparably bound together in teaching and picture format. This is because Spirit baptism into the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is portraying our water baptism. Behind Spirit baptism is water baptism. The saving and sanctifying transaction we have through being spiritually immersed in Jesus Christ results in us sharing the benefits of Christ's salvation and sanctification for our lives. Our water baptism is a beautiful portrayal of what occurred when the Holy Spirit united us to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ granting us a new birth and new life in Christ.

It's our union with Christ that SAVES us – not passing through the waters of baptism. For instance, the conclusion of Romans 6 is that we are given a new birth as a result of the Holy Spirit's work in uniting us to Christ for we are said to have been made "alive from the dead" (Rom. 6:13). This is referring to spiritual life that is given to us through being united with the resurrected Christ (sharing His life). It's also our union with Christ that SANCTIFIES us = not water baptism. Romans 6:6 teaches that our old man has been crucified or put to death when we were positionally united to the death of Jesus Christ at the time of conversion, which conquered the old person we used to be under the power and enslavement to sin.

Water baptism does not save or sanctify us. It's our identification with Christ, through the Holy Spirit immersing us or baptizing us into Christ, that saves us and changes our lives forever. And yet, many denominations believe that baptism is what saves a person and washes away their sins. They claim baptism is the sacrament that transfers grace into our lives. But this is an errant and heretical teaching. Baptism does not save us by transferring God's grace into our lives. It is Jesus Christ alone that saves us when we are transferred into Christ, united to Jesus Christ through the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:27), through which God's saving and sanctifying power is transferred into our lives (Eph. 1:3).

1 Corinthians 12:13 explains it like this:

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized (spiritually immersed) **into one body** (*the Church – the body of Christ which is spiritually united to Christ – sharing Christ's life and nature*), **whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit"** (*the drinking means that all Christians have partaken and participated in the spiritual blessings that the Holy Spirit has given to us regarding salvation and sanctification*).

You will notice that this is talking about what the Holy Spirit does to save and sanctify our lives. It's not the ceremony of water baptism but the Holy Spirit baptism (immersion) that places us in Christ, uniting us to Christ, forming the Body of Christ (the Church) from which each believer has received spiritual life. It's the Holy Spirit who spiritually identifies us with Christ by placing us into a union with Jesus Christ (His death, burial, and resurrection). In other words, the Bible teaches we have shared or participated in the same events that Christ passed through (death, burial, and resurrection) and therefore have received the spiritual benefits (salvation and sanctification) that flows forth from this union with Christ (Eph. 1:3).

So, our water baptism is a picture of what occurred when the Holy Spirit united us to Christ – His death, burial, and resurrection. Again, you cannot talk about Spirit baptism without having the picture of water baptism in the background. When Paul talks about the theological saving transaction of Spirit baptism (immersion in Christ) he is also naturally conveying in picture format what this means through water baptism. This is how we must view Romans chapter 6. It's our identification with Christ through Spirit baptism that provides us with salvation and

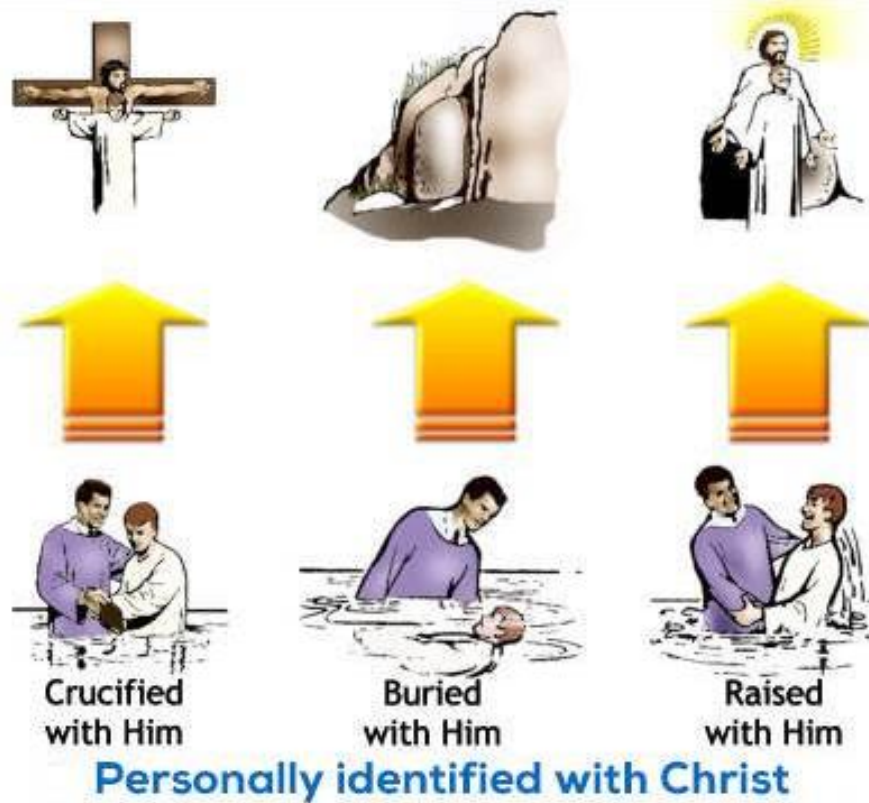
sanctification for living and the picture behind this glorious transaction is water baptism by immersion. We need to remember both things when studying Romans 6.

A minister conducted many baptismal services in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The younger children of course would pick up on this. One Sunday, his family went to a friend's home in the country. One of the preacher's four little children went outside to play with the others. After a short while, the adults heard only silence and wondered what the children were up to. They found them behind a barn quietly playing "church."

The preacher's 4-year-old daughter Susan was conducting the baptismal service. She held a cat over a barrel of water. Trying to be as solemn as her father, she repeated the phrase she had heard many times: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and in the hole you go!"

Well, she missed the last part of the baptizing formula, but she did get the mode of baptism right! It means to dip or immerse.

The next picture reveals the general picture of what baptism portrays through our spiritual union or identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Water baptism is a *reenactment* of Spirit baptism, which occurs at the time of salvation, when the Holy Spirit identifies us with Christ by placing us in union with Him, supplying us with a completed salvation and sanctifying victory in Christ (Rom. 6:3-6).



This picture reveals what Romans 6 is teaching regarding our baptism. The Holy Spirit brings us into a spiritual union and identification with Christ (His death, burial, and resurrection) providing us with a positional severance from the old life and giving us a new life through a new birth. However, this glorious saving and sanctifying transaction is pictured by water baptism (immersion). It is the Spirit's baptism that saves us by giving us a new birth, but our water baptism gives us a beautiful illustration of death to the old life and walking in newness of life through the new birth.

Romans 6:3-5 explains all of this: **“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized (*spiritually immersed*) into Jesus Christ (at the time of our salvation) were baptized (*spiritually immersed*) into his death? (SHARING in Christ's death) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: (*spiritual immersion in Christ's burial – SHARING in Christ's time in the grave*) that like as Christ was raised up from the dead (SHARING in Christ's resurrection) by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (*by sharing in Christ's resurrection we have been born again and can now live in Christ's power and victory!*). For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection.*”**

Once again, this is referencing what the Holy Spirit did to identify us with Jesus Christ (immersed us in the work of Christ) in order to bring the spiritual blessings of salvation and sanctification into our lives forever! At the same time, Romans 6 is giving us the picture of our water baptism which tells the never-ending story of what occurred at the time of conversion.



BURIAL is the LINK between death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:4). Burial indicates or proves that we have already *positionally* died to sin's power through our identification with Christ's death (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24) and can now be raised to a new way of life in Christ. Burial is important! Immersion portrays this BURIAL which in a *practical* way indicates we have personally chosen to die to the old way of life and are now ready to experience a new life in Christ (Col. 3:5, 8-9, 12-14; Rom. 8:13; Eph. 4:25-32).

Only immersion (going underneath the water) symbolizes our death to the old life and the beginning of a new way of life in Christ. Romans chapter 6 refers to the Holy Spirit's baptism (spiritual immersion) of believers in Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), placing them into a saving and life-changing union with Jesus Christ, where each one shares in His death, burial, and risen life. But again, this is what our water baptism portrays! Water baptism is a beautiful picture or portrayal of how we have passed through a death, burial, and resurrection with Christ so we can live a new way of life (“newness of life” – Rom. 6:4).

The reason for baptism by IMMERSION (being buried or submerged underneath the water) is because it beautifully portrays what Jesus Christ has done to provide us with a new birth and new way of life. Baptism (immersion or burial in water) looks BACK to our death to sin's power,

through sharing in Christ's death, but it also looks FORWARD to sharing in the resurrection power of Christ and living a different life. Let me explain.

The Bible says we were crucified with Christ on the cross and in sharing Christ's death sin was defeated in our lives. Romans 6:6 states: "**Knowing this, that our old man** (*the old person we used to be under sin's power*) **is crucified with him** (Christ), **that the body of sin might be destroyed** (*that our body must no longer be controlled and defeated by sin*), **that henceforth we should not serve sin**" (*be enslaved to sin*). In other words, in a spiritual way, through our union and identification with Christ's death, sin's power has been conquered in our lives.

Crucifixion With Christ (Standing in the Water)



Our crucifixion or death with Christ ("baptized into his death" – Rom. 6:3) is pictured when we are standing upright in the water as Christ hung upright in the cross. Standing in the water points to our death to the old way of life with Christ ("I am crucified with Christ" - Gal. 2:20). This spiritual crucifixion is pictured by our standing in the water even as Christ hung on the cross and was crucified.

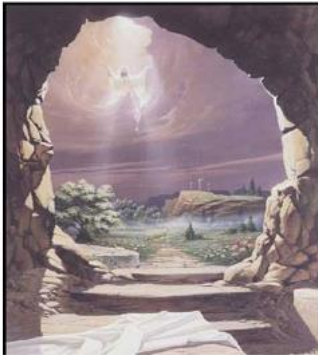
We were also BURIED with Christ ("buried with him by baptism into his death" – Rom. 6:4). This is pictured by our immersion in the water or being totally submersed in the water ("Buried with him in baptism" - Col. 2:12). Our union and identification with Christ's burial is the *confirmation, evidence, and proof* that we truly have died to the old patterns of sin. The burial of Christ verified His own death (1 Cor. 15:4). In a similar way, our union with Christ's burial confirms our death in Christ and our release to the old way of living under the power and enslavement of sin. Practically, burial indicates our desire to be totally released from sin's slavery, power, and the old patterns of sinful living. It is essentially saying, "I have died to the old way of life, want to bury the old life and put it in the past, and now I want to live for Jesus Christ in a new way of life."

Burial With Christ Underneath the Water



Identified with Christ's death and burial through water baptism is a pictorial display of death to the old life. But it does not stop here!

Risen With Christ (Out of the Water)



We were then RAISED with Christ from the dead (“we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” – Rom. 6:5). This is pictured when we are raised out of the water which points to our new birth and a new way of life and victory by sharing Christ's resurrection life and power (“the power of his resurrection” - Phil. 3:10). Paul spoke of this when he said: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live” (Gal. 2:20).

This means we are made spiritually alive in Christ (sharing His resurrection life, nature, and power) so we can experience victory and “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). In other words, we are given the promise of victory through possessing a spiritual union with the resurrected Christ.

In summary, water baptism pictures DEATH to the old man (person) we used to be before we were saved under the power of sin, a BURIAL of the old life – putting it away forever, and RESURRECTION to a new way of life. Baptism (immersion) is the only true PICTURE of a believer's salvation or deliverance from sin's power. It is the only MODE (submersion) that demonstrates WHAT Christ did to save or deliver us from sin's power. We experience our death to the old life, so we can be raised to new life. Again, only immersion (going underneath the water) symbolizes death to the old life and the beginning of a new way of life in Christ (Eph. 2:1-2). This next picture sums up what our baptism by immersion is really portraying.

AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF YOUR INWARD DECISION



DEATH



BURIAL



RESURRECTION



NEW LIFE

Baptism is an outward ceremony and expression of our inward decision and heart's desire to follow Jesus Christ in new life or transformation of living. The *reenactment* of our death, burial,

and resurrection with Christ in the waters of baptism becomes our way of saying, “Death and burial to the old way of life and living a new way of life as a follower of Jesus Christ.”



- ❖ Is the truth about baptism different for each one of us?
- ❖ Should our sincerity in passing through a ceremony of sprinkling or pouring override what is the right mode of baptism?
- ❖ Do we try and reason what is right from our own personal experiences?
- ❖ Is truth simply what we want it to be, or do we want to really know the truth and then obey it?

Since baptism is immersion (being placed under the water), have you really been baptized if you were only sprinkled, or when water was poured on your head? “What saith the Scripture?” (Rom. 4:3). Biblical baptism is only by immersion or submersion.

The important thing is that we possess a proper attitude towards the Bible and what Jesus taught. Are we going to do what the Bible says and follow the Lord in believer’s baptism? If you have been sprinkled or poured as a believer, it is important to practice the right method or mode of baptism, which pictures your death, burial, and resurrection with Christ unto a completely new way of living, as a follower of Christ.



What you profess outwardly, your deliverance and victory over sin through death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, should be witnessed in the mode of your baptism (submersion).

3. The sending orders of Christ supports immersion.



In the Great Commission passage of Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus taught that water baptism (immersion) signaled identification with Him and Christianity: “**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations** (*make disciples of all people through sharing the Gospel and seeing people saved*), **baptizing** (*immersing*) **them** (*indicating their identification with and desire to follow Christ*) **in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost** (*the Trinity formula*): **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have**

commanded you (*obedience to Christ’s teachings*): **and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”**

In the Great Commission, Jesus gave a very clear message to His disciples. Their sending orders were to baptize (immerse) followers of Christ to demonstrate that each one of them identified

themselves with Christ and the cause of Christianity, to reveal their willingness to become a disciple or follower of Christ.

In other words, baptism (immersion under the water) is a sign of a person's discipleship or willingness to follow Jesus Christ in a new way of life. It gives a testimony of a person's salvation and desire to live for Jesus Christ through transformation of living. Essentially, Christian baptism is the means by which a person makes a PUBLIC PROFESSION of their faith in Christ and desire to become Christ's disciple or follower. In the waters of baptism, a person says, *wordlessly* (without speaking), "I confess that the Lord Jesus Christ has saved and cleansed me from all my sins and given me a complete victory over sin through His death, burial and resurrection, and I now want to live a new life of consecration before God."



The water baptism of the Great Commission is a way to visually and pictorially (by picture) preach the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:3-4). STANDING in the water symbolizes Jesus dying on the cross, IMMERSION in the water symbolizes Jesus being buried in the tomb and RESURRECTION from the water symbolizes Jesus rising from the dead. Our water baptism is essentially teaching that through our spiritual UNION and IDENTIFICATION with Christ we have become a new creation of God (2 Cor. 5:17) and now want to bury the old life and rise to walk in newness of life.

Baptism by immersion displays the correct PICTURE and TESTIMONY of the COMPLETE salvation, deliverance, and victory that Jesus Christ has given to you through your union and identification with His own death, burial, and resurrection.

Peter viewed baptism by immersion as "the like figure" (1 Pet. 3:21) or the **picture** of our salvation and deliverance from both the penalty and power of sin. In other words, the picture of baptism tells the story of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Peter said that Christ died on the cross to save us ("the just for the unjust" - 1 Pet. 3:18). He then says that our water baptism pictures how Christ was immersed with God's wrath on the cross in order to save us ("The like figure [picture] whereunto even baptism doth also now save us" - 1 Pet. 3:21).

Please do not misunderstand what the Bible is teaching here. Baptism does NOT save us, but the PICTURE of what baptism represents does save us. It is actually the baptism (immersion) of Christ in God's judgment that saves us. Peter is teaching us that our water baptism portrays the picture or illustration of how Christ died on the cross and as baptized or immersed with God's judgment and wrath in our place. Jesus was baptized with God's judgment, so we do not have to be judged (John 3:18).

Jesus used the figure of baptism (immersion) when speaking about His coming suffering and death (Matthew 20:22; Luke 12:50). Therefore, Peter is teaching that our water baptism is a picture of the immersion of the Father's wrath that Jesus experienced when He was hanging on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). Christ was plunged beneath the waters of the Father's wrath to save sinners like you and me. Christ is our ark of safety as in the day of Noah for He was totally immersed in God's righteous judgment to justify us as lost sinners.



POURING or SPRINKLING of water on our head does not give the accurate picture of how Christ was baptized for us, totally immersed in the Father's wrath and judgment when He hung on the cross. However, baptism by immersion beautifully portrays the spiritual washing (forgiveness) and salvation we have received through Jesus Christ who was baptized with God's judgment on our behalf. Therefore, baptism becomes the outward symbol of God's inner work of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. Being buried or submerged under the water at the time of our baptism is a beautiful *picture* or *symbol* of the true and TOTAL washing away of our sins ("washing away thy sins" - Acts 22:16) and the COMPLETE victory Christ provided for us over sin through His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:1-15). Baptism does not save us (Eph. 2:8-9) but it is the PICTURE of our cleansing from sin and salvation.

1 Corinthians 6:11 explains our salvation and forgiveness in terms of cleansing:

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

SPINKLING or POURING water on one's head does not give the right picture of our total and complete cleansing, forgiveness, and victory through our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. Therefore, these modes do not accurately portray our new birth and resurrection to newness of life. Only SUBMERSSION paints the beautiful picture of our salvation and victory through identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.



Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Are you ready to OBEY the command of Jesus Christ and be baptized in the MANNER that He expects from His disciples? If so, be IMMERSED in water and send the right picture of your death and burial to your past sinful life and desire to walk in newness of life.

Immersion is a wonderful testimony to the truth of how we have shared in the benefits of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for our salvation and victory. For this reason, immersion is the only CORRECT way to be baptized. The first key step that demonstrates your sincerity to follow Christ is your willingness to obey the command of Christ, which is to be submerged under the water. Christ gets the glory when His saints are immersed for it pictures His delivering power and victory that He has provided for them (1 Cor. 10:31).

Immersion naturally portrays our willingness to publicly identify with Jesus Christ as one of His faithful followers, completely surrendered to His will, and ready to experience a new dynamic and transformed way of living (Matt. 28:19). When the church began at Pentecost, 3,000 people believed and were then baptized by being submersed in water (Acts 2:41). It was a testimony of their salvation and willingness to be part of those who were **"of this way"** (Acts 9:2; 22:4) – the way of Christianity and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 reveals that salvation comes into our life directly through grace (through Jesus Christ) – not through baptism (a ceremony). In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way" (not baptism). The transfer of grace into our lives comes directly through Jesus Christ, being identified with His death, burial, and resurrection – not by passing through the waters of baptism. It is not the sacramental instrument of baptismal waters that washes away sins but the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1 John 1:7). Baptism has no power in transferring grace into our lives. The Holy Spirit transfers saving grace into our when He unites us to Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:27), causing us to immediately and forever receive salvation and all of our spiritual blessings in and through Christ (Eph. 1:3).

Although baptism followed a person's salvation, it was never part of it in any way (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 36-38 18:8). However, it is significant that baptism would often occur in conjunction with a person's salvation and actually became a confirming sign or marker of the genuineness of one's faith in Christ and salvation (Mark 16:16). In New Testament times there was no such thing as an unbaptized Christian for the distinctive mark of being a Christian was water baptism (identifying as a follower of Christ).

4. The scenes of baptism in the Bible support immersion.

Baptism by immersion is the mode or exact procedure practiced by the apostles and early church (Acts 2:41; 8:38-39; 9:18; 18:8). During Bible times and the early days of Christianity, the people did not have a pitcher of water, or a sprinkling can that they used to baptize new converts. They were baptized in rivers and lakes. The Bible clearly reveals



this. The new converts to Christianity did not walk into a lake to have water sprinkled or poured upon their heads!

Acts 8:38-39 beautifully demonstrates the only mode of baptism which was submersion: “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”



Remember that a picture is worth a thousand words! Let's send the right picture and give the proper testimony of our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ to newness of life (Rom. 6:4) by being immersed or submersed in water. This is the only true and Biblical way to be baptized. In the New Testament, submersion in water was the natural result of saving faith and commitment to Jesus as one's Savior and Lord.

If you have been saved through Jesus Christ but have not been baptized, I encourage you to consider this powerful testimony of your faith in Christ and what He has done for you. As you declare outwardly your identification with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (death to the old life and walking in newness of life), this picture or symbol will also be a significant reminder to you of what's happened in your life, strengthening you in your Christian journey!

- ❖ You should want to FOLLOW the example of the early New Testament believers and be immersed.
- ❖ You should want to OBEY the sign of the Great Commission, which is baptism my immersion, and demonstrate that you are a follower of Christ (Matt. 28:19-20).
- ❖ You should want to DISPLAY the right testimony and picture of your deliverance from sin and victory through Jesus Christ.
- ❖ You should DESIRE to be baptized in the correct manner.
- ❖ You should ASK your pastor to be immersed for it's what Jesus taught His followers to do.

