

Baptism

Outline on Christian Baptism

1. Baptism generally means immersion but has different applications.
2. John the Baptist baptized with water to prepare the way for Christ.
3. Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit.
4. All believers in Jesus are to be baptized with water.
5. Spirit baptism saves; Subsequent water baptism is symbolic.
6. The only scriptural prerequisite for water baptism is belief in Jesus Christ.
7. Water baptism should always follow belief in Jesus Christ.
8. Water baptism should follow *soon* after belief in Christ.
9. Proper water baptism is a one-time initiatory rite that needs not be repeated.
10. Contextually, water baptism appears to be by immersion.
11. Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ.
12. Infant baptism is not scripturally valid.
 - a. The apostolic pattern and teachings clearly established under the New Covenant is the baptism of individuals confessing personal faith in Jesus Christ.
 - b. In scripture, there is no explicit mention of infants being baptized, nor are they commanded to be baptized.
 - c. Baptism is *the answer of a good conscience toward God*, requiring a conscious decision infants cannot make.
 - d. Consistent interpretation of scripture reveals no inferences establishing a doctrine of infant baptism.
 - e. Infant baptism does more harm than good, since it distorts the meaning of baptism.
13. Water baptism is not required for salvation.
 - a. Salvation is by grace--not by works.

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- b. Water baptism is not part of the gospel.
- c. The scriptures state repeatedly that the requirement to receive salvation is faith (or to believe)
 - c1. Faith equals belief.
 - c2. Salvation is received through faith.
 - c3. Faith is *the* pivotal response required for salvation.
 - c4. Faith is not works.
 - c5. Initial saving faith normally occurs prior to water baptism.