



## **Should You be Baptized???**

*Mark 16:15-16 (NRSV) <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup>The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.*

There are a few things that Christianity is very dogmatic about. One is believing in Jesus for salvation. Another is Baptism. Christianity sees this sacred ritual as a critical part of being saved. What is there about baptism that makes it so special? Is everyone supposed to be baptized? What if you're not? What are we baptized into? What is the difference between the 2 baptisms mentioned in the New Testament (NT)? This topic raises many questions, and by searching the scriptures, we attempt to harmonize the accounts in order to answer them.

### ***What does Baptism mean?***

The NT uses variants of the greek word “baptizo” in numerous scriptures describing baptism. This word means: to immerse, to submerge, to make clean with water.

*Matthew 3:6 And were baptized (baptizo) of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized (baptizo), went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

*Mark 7:4 And when they come from the market, except they wash (baptizo), they eat not...*

The general concept of baptism is that submersion under water symbolizes our commitment to serve Jesus unto death. Through this submersion, He washes us from our sins and makes us clean. If we believe in Jesus, that He was the son of God and that He gave His life for us, then we can show our appreciation by giving our lives to Him. Baptism is an outward symbol of our willingness to sacrifice our lives unto death as did Jesus.

*Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

*Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

### ***What are the 2 baptisms spoken of in the New Testament?***

The scriptures talk about 2 baptisms: the baptism of John, which was unto repentance, and the baptism of Jesus which was for the remission of sins.

*Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.*

*Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

This would seem to indicate that the first step in our Christian walk is to repent of our sins and turn to Jesus. Once we recognize that we are sinners, we can accept Jesus as our redeemer by recognizing that He paid the price for our sins with His own life. Our acceptance of Him should lead to our taking up our cross daily and following Him. (Luke 9:23)

The scriptures also seem to indicate that the Holy Spirit is given to those who are committed to follow after Jesus.

*Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*

### ***Should you be baptized?***

Before being baptized, we need to understand what it is we are being baptized into. Is our baptism for repentance? Is it to become a member of a church organization? Was our baptism performed in infancy? The scriptures are clear that those baptized into Jesus were mature enough to make a conscious decision to be buried with Him in death. We may have already been baptized, but unless we consciously made a decision to sacrifice our earthly lives, chances are we are not baptized into Jesus' death with the opportunity to reign with Him.

*Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

*Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

So, if you can agree to the following:

- That you are a sinner,
- That Jesus is your redeemer,
- That you have made an unreserved consecration of your all to follow in Jesus footsteps, even unto death.

Then it would be appropriate to be baptized into Jesus' death in order to run for the prize of the high calling to joint-heirship with Him.

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