

**Let's Be Clear
After I Believe, Then What?
Dr. Larry Lamb
June 23, 2024**

Let's be clear about baptism.

Did Jesus downplay baptism? No, He was baptized as an example for believers to follow.

- Baptism is a declaration.
- Some say that without baptism, the person is close to salvation but not washed clean from sin.

If water saves people, we don't need the Cross; we just need a lot of water.

Be leery of people who teach that salvation is Jesus plus something.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

- 1. Why immerse in water?** Because in V. 16 Baptism (*Baptizō*) means - to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge.

Matthew 3:16 *After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.*

Acts 8:35 *So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.*

Acts 8:38-39 *He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.*

- 2. What is baptism a picture of?** Baptism is a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Luke 24:5-7 *The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."*

Romans 10:9-10 *If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

Faith may be compared to the love that binds two people together. It develops internally and leads two people to make a commitment to each other. The wedding is the occasion where that love is publicly celebrated, confessed, and confirmed. It does not create the love, but it expresses and seals it in a beautiful and solemn way. Likewise, baptism does not create faith or union with Christ, but it confesses, celebrates, and confirms it. – Stanley J. Grenz, in his book *Theology for the Community of God*

3. Who should be baptized?

- Those with absolute credible assurance that they have received Jesus as their Savior.
- Those who thought they were saved and may have been baptized. Later, they realized that they were not, but now they have solid assurance.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Baptism is a command (**Matthew 28:19-20**).
- Baptism is an outward expression of the inward change (**2 Cor. 5:17**)

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me.

Amen.