

You Are a New Creature

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17 KJV)

Accepting Christ is the most significant action a person can ever take. What a glorious moment (regeneration) when someone trusts Christ as Savior and Lord! At the moment of salvation, Christ comes and indwells the new believer and a wonderful, eternal journey begins.

Along that journey, one of the first important steps a new believer takes is the step of baptism. One of the disturbing trends today is many people who accept Christ as Savior and Lord are not following through in their obedience to Christ as it relates to baptism. Often, new believers do not understand the importance of baptism because church members and leaders fail to communicate its importance.

The Book of Romans provides some of the most edifying and encouraging scriptures for “New Converts”. For example Romans 6:3-6 KJV

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Your baptism signifies to the world that you are unashamed to follow the commands of Jesus Christ. Baptism is an outward demonstration of what has happened to you on the inwardly. When you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, and made an open confession of your belief that God has raised him from the dead you were saved from Sin and your Christian journey began.

WHO IS BAPTIZED?

- Individuals who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord.
- demonstrate their obedience to Christ and the Scripture
- Individuals who are not ashamed to follow Christ's example

- Individuals who desire to identify their lives with the local church
- Individuals who proclaim Christ's death, burial and resurrection

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

- New Testament teaching that the word for baptism (baptizo) means “to immerse in water.” Since the Scriptures clearly teach baptism by immersion this is the method we practice
- We immerse in water as an act of following Christ.
- We baptize in obedience to Christ command. (Matt. 28:18-20 KJV)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- New Testament believers were baptized before witnesses. Baptism was not a private ceremony, but a public display of one's commitment to Christ.
- Understand baptism does not bestow salvation, but is a symbol of the new life in Christ that has already begun
- The Gospel of John affirms your new found life in Jesus Christ. Read it frequently and completely.