

The Meaning of Baptism

(Romans 6:1-10)

Introduction

Several years ago, I read a story of a lady in Arizona that experienced life-change through Jesus and was scheduled to be baptized. She was saved out of a very sinful lifestyle.

When talking with the pastor about her baptismal event, she asked the pastor if she could invite some of her friends and co-workers to her baptism. She was very excited about what God had done in her heart. The pastor agreed.

The day of her baptism, the pastor looked out at the congregation and seated in the first three rows were several pimps, prostitutes, drug dealers, and other shady characters – her friends and co-workers.

When the lady was baptized, every one on those three rows jumped to their feet, applauded, yelled “woot-woot”, and did several fist pumps! They were excited for their friend.

Isn't that what baptism should be like? Baptism is a declaration! Baptism is a significant event in the life of a believer. Baptism is a celebration.

Quick facts about baptism.

- Baptism was given to us by Jesus who both modeled and commanded it's practice.
- Baptism is NOT redemptive, but evidence of redemption.
- Baptism is by definition immersion.
- Baptism is one of two practices (traditions) given to the local church as an object lesson concerning the crucifixion.

Contextualize Romans 6.

I. The Significance of Baptism

Principle: While baptism is an act of obedience, more importantly it is a public identification with Christ and all that is associated with life in Christ.

- A) The Struggle with Sin (v. 1)
- B) The Prohibition of Ongoing Sin (v. 2)
- C) The Reference to Identification with Christ Through Baptism (v. 3)

II. The Symbolism of Baptism

- A) Baptism declares the gospel as real and a source of new life in you (v. 4-5).
- B) Baptism proclaims that in Christ victory over sin is a practical possibility (6-7).
- C) Baptism affirms that eternity is real and a part of your hope (v. 8-9).

Conclusion (v. 10)