

Faith Christian Fellowship
October 4, 2015
Strong Foundations: Water Baptism

♥ Baptism is an ancient practice in many religions, Judaism.

Definitions and examples:

- Baptize = baptizo : submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); a form of bapto, "to dip," Used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment, or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another, etc. Plutarchus uses it of the drawing of wine by dipping the cup into the bowl
- The baptism of John: total immersion signifying a turning of the person's life, away from the old life to a looking forward to the imminent coming of Messiah. Luke 3:3-18
- Jesus' baptism was one of separation for service, preparing to enter His ministry. Numbers 4:3 / Exodus 29:4-7
- Christian Baptism is first of all the answer of a good conscience
 - Water baptism is a command of the Lord. Matthew 28:18-20 An essential step in becoming a disciple.
 - 1 Peter 3:21 The first step in a lifestyle of obedience: If you won't obey Him in this simple thing, how will you obey Him when you face difficult choices? There are two primary readings of 1 Peter 3:21.
 - A heart that is right toward God will respond by obeying Him in baptism: it is the answer of a good conscience, one that genuinely desires to serve the Lord.
 - A heart that is right toward God cries out in baptism to be cleansed and made pure- the washing of the filthiness of the heart:

♥ How is baptism done in the New Testament?

- Acts 8:16 This baptism one occurred upon profession of faith in Christ.
- Acts 8: 37-39 Baptism was done by immersion. Baptism followed conversion immediately
- Acts 10: 47 May come after the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 19:1-5 It is scriptural to be baptized again if the first one was not in a full revelation of what conversion means.

♥ What should we expect from baptism?

- Romans 6:1-14 A proclamation of identification with Christ. Dead with Him and raised with Him. We are hereafter "in Him." Our announcement to the world, to the devil, and to the Body of Christ that we are Christ's.
 - We are baptized into His death: We are no longer slaves of sin: The power of sin to control you is broken! He who has died has been freed from sin: The wages of sin is death- You got what you had coming to you, you died. **You can now live free from guilt.**
 - We are raised from baptism to walk, or live a lifestyle, which reflects the life of God.
 - We are alive to God- we have a new and fresh sense of our relationship to Him and **a new sensitivity to His voice.** Romans 6:11 ...be alive to God, alert to him, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (TLB)
 - Your body parts are hereby offered for use by God.
- Colossians 2:11-12 The circumcision of the heart- the sign of the covenant.
 - The sign of the covenant taken voluntarily to testify of commitment to the relationship. This is permanent, irrevocable. It is an actual change of heart, bringing us into covenant relation with the Father. Baptism, when properly perceived will **increase your faith** in God's irrevocable commitment to you. .
 - Notice vv. 16-17 We are free from religious ritual. Condemnation and spiritual inadequacy is a thing of the past.
- Galatians 3:26-29 In baptism, you put on Christ, like putting on a coat.
 - This signifies taking to yourself **a new identity**: You wear the colors of your new tribe. Put on the robe of your adopted Dad.
 - This new identity puts away all previous identities, good and bad. You are now co-equal with the saints, a member of the King's family.
 - You are identified as an heir of the kingdom. All that is Christ's belongs to you.

Water baptism:
A funeral for the old and a birthday party for the new.