

BAPTISM INTO CHRIST

Introduction – The word baptism is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo* in the New Testament scripture. The word *baptizo* literally means to dip, submerge, or immerse. There are Greek words for “pour” (*ekecheo* and *ekchuno*). There is also a Greek word for “sprinkle” (*rhantizo*). Prior to Jesus, Jews practiced self-immersion for ritual cleansing in *mikvots*. Starting with John the Baptist, a new form of one-time administered baptism was introduced. The major difference between the baptism of John and Christian baptism was that the gift of the Holy Spirit was received only in Christian baptism.

A. There is one baptism in water and in the Spirit.

John 3:3-8

Titus 3:3-6

Ephesians 4:3-6

B. Baptism is a dramatic reenactment of the good news message about Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Romans 6:3-4

C. Baptism into Christ is an act of faith in Christ.

Galatians 3:26-28

Colossians 2:11-12

D. Baptism into Christ is preceded by repentance and is when we should expect the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:36-38

E. Baptism into Christ unites us with the body of Christ, which is the church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Colossians 1:15-18

F. Baptism into Christ is an essential step to making disciples in the name of the triune God.

Matthew 28:19-20

Conclusion – Christian baptism is for adults who trust the saving work of God in Christ. It is an admission that one cannot save themselves apart from the grace of God in Christ. It unites us to Christ and the Christ community.

Romans 10:9-13

Acts 22:16