

Series: Why We Do What We Do

We Practice Adult Immersion, Part 2 Galatians 3:26-28

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1. The act of water baptism is a very important first step in the Christian life.
 2. Too often we take this commitment too lightly.
 3. When we are baptized, several things happen.
 - a. We are clothed with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)
 - b. We added to the Body of Christ, the church. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - c. We are saved. (Acts 2:47; 1 Peter 3:21)
 - d. Baptism in water is a rebirth (John 3:5), both of which are central themes of baptism.
 4. There is another side to baptism.
 - a. Baptism is, in essence, a funeral. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)
 - b. Ultimately, it all goes back to Jesus' statement in John 14:15. "If you love me, keep my commandments."
- I. Consider the Method of Baptism.
- A. Throughout Christian history, three primary modes of baptism have been followed.
 - B. Church history tells us that immersion was the mode of baptism in the early church.
- II. Why We Don't Practice Infant Baptism.
- A. First, faith is always the prerequisite for baptism.
 1. Matthew 28:19-20: "Go...make disciples...baptize them."
 - B. Second, there are no cases of infant baptism in the New Testament.
 - C. Third, Jesus alluded to the innocence of children.
 1. Matthew 18:2-4
 2. "Yet you ask, 'Why does the son not share the guilt of his father?' Since the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to keep all my decrees, he will surely live. The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him." Ezekiel 18:19-20
- III. Answers to Other Questions About Baptism.
- A. How important is baptism? (1 Peter 3:21)
 - B. When should a person be baptized?
 - C. Do I have to be baptized during a church service?
 - D. If I was baptized as an infant do I need to be baptized again as a believer?
 - E. How old should children be before they are baptized?
 - F. How can I prepare my children for baptism?
- IV. Baptism is a Statement of Submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- A. The process of salvation is a commitment to put Christ first in your life.
 - B. If we truly believe in the importance of baptism, what should we be doing?