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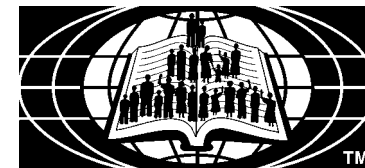
Baptizing New Believers



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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Ask God's blessing on this study.

NOTES

Read Acts 16:22-35.

☐ Mark the box when you have done so.

WITH WHAT AUTHORITY DO WE BAPTIZE?

Our Lord Jesus Christ commands us to baptize all new converts.

According to Matthew 28:18-20, with how much authority does the Lord Jesus command us to baptize? (Read the verses.)

God the Father has given the Lord Jesus all power in Heaven and Earth, and especially over His church - us. In love we obey our Supreme Commander and King.

NOTES

When the Apostles explained the Gospel, they called the people to repent, believe and be baptized. So we baptize in accordance with the Lord's command and the apostles' example.

Baptism affirms that one believes in Christ, his sins are forgiven and he is united with Christ.

Note: Different churches observe varying practices for baptism.

Adapt this study to your situation.



WHY DO WE BAPTIZE?

Baptism emphasizes that a person belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. When one repents and believes, what will he receive, according to Acts 2:38?

1. F _____ of s _____.
2. The gift of the H _____ S _____.

The believer is then baptized as a declaration of his faith in Christ.

According to Romans 6:1-5, we die and rise with Christ in baptism. In relation to WHAT do we die? (verse 2)

What is the purpose of sharing in Christ's death and in His resurrection? (verse 4)

- Do not postpone a new convert's baptism so long that it discourages him, when evangelizing the whole family. If they do not respond quickly, proceed with his baptism. His obedience is a powerful influence.
- Baptize (or help baptize) those who have repented. In the case of people who have already been baptized but who later strayed from the Lord, receive them into the congregation according to your church's practice when they confess their repentance and faith.
- Write the names of the church's members in a book (or name a secretary to do so). Note also the date of each one's baptism. Keep this list up to date.
- After their baptism, it is good for the new believers begin to share in the Lord's Supper.



PRACTICAL WORK

- Pray for the newly converted, that they will be baptized and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Write the names of new believers in your church who should be baptized.

- Witness to the families of the new believers, so that they become converted and may be baptized together. Write the names of these family members whom you visit.

WHOM DO WE BAPTIZE?

Peter ordered the baptism of every repentant believer in Acts 2:38-41 and Acts 10:47-48. According to Acts 2:38, what did they have to do to be baptized? _____

We do not baptize people just because they have raised their hand in response to a public invitation. They must confess their repentance and faith in Christ. Then we announce the forgiveness of their sins and baptize them to confirm their entrance into the Kingdom of God.



Use the following Bible texts to guide you.

Acts 8:12

Acts 16:13-15

Acts 8:26-40

Acts 16:31-34

Acts 9:17-19

Acts 19:1-7

Acts 10: 23-48

WHEN DO WE BAPTIZE A NEW BELIEVER?

In Acts 2:41, how soon were the converts baptized?

Read Acts 16:25-35. When were they baptized?

(Compare verse 25 with verse 33.)

Those who received the message were baptized the same day. The Apostles announced the Gospel to people. Then they baptized those who were converted.



Paul had been blind and without food for three days, following his conversion. Read Acts 9:17-19. When was Paul baptized, BEFORE or AFTER he ate again?

SUMMARY TEST

1. Who commands us to baptize new believers?

2. Baptism affirms our unity with:

- ☐ the pastor.
- ☐ Christ.

3. We baptize to:

- ☐ obey Christ and give new believers opportunity to declare their faith in Christ and His forgiveness of their sins.
- ☐ show that the believer is already perfect.

Notes:

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

WITH WATER, to emphasize:

- the washing away of our sins. (Acts 22:16)
- union with Christ in His death and resurrection.
- receiving the Holy Spirit.
- incorporation into the body of Christ, the Church.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- Matthew 28:19
- Acts 2:38
- Romans 6:1-14
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Note: Confer with your Pastoral Instructor on your church's practice regarding baptism.

The Apostles did not delay baptism once the people believed. The only thing they did before it was, when possible, to explain the good news to their families also. (Acts 16:31-33)



In Scripture, converts were normally baptized immediately; such as Cornelius and his family (Acts 10:24-48), and the Ethiopian. (Acts 8:26-39)

Normally baptism occurs as near as possible to the time of conversion. Converts do not need to wait until they have completed a long course of instruction. The discipling is done afterwards.

HOW DO WE PREPARE SOMEONE FOR BAPTISM?

Someone is ready for baptism when he has repented of his sins and believes in the RISEN Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible assures him of the cleansing of his sins and the church baptizes him to confirm this forgiveness and as a testimony of his faith in Christ. Baptism thus has two aspects:

WHAT THE NEW BELIEVER DOES

- Repents of his sins. (Acts 2:38)
- Believes in Christ. (Mark 1:15)

WHAT THE CHURCH DOES

- Assure the convert of the forgiveness of his sins. (Luke 24:45-48)
- Baptizes him. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:38-42)
- Prays for his victorious walk with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:12-17)

The church teaches him to obey all Christ's commands. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Baptism is a sign of our death to sin. *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."* (Romans 6:4)

We are disobedient if we do not baptize a person who sincerely believes in Jesus. If we neglect baptizing the newly born in Christ, our lack of concern and confidence is a stumbling block. They may think that they lack something to be believers.

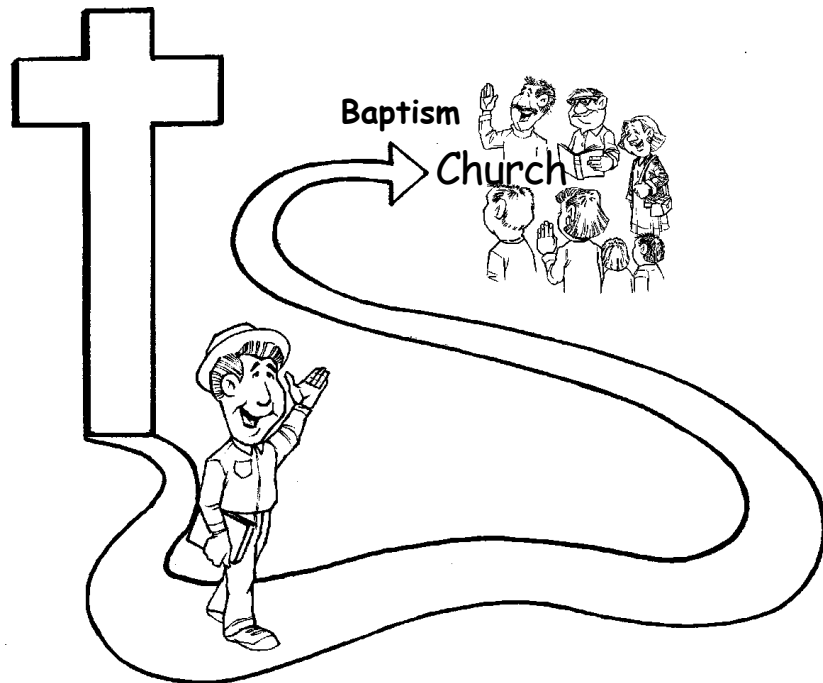
It is better to risk an occasional false believer, than to deny baptism to many sincere ones. For example: they did not deny baptism to the three thousand in Jerusalem, for fear of including such people as Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-11)

The most important time for the spiritual development of a believer is the first few weeks AFTER his baptism and acceptance by the church. That is when he forms the foundations for his beliefs, his Christian character and his discipline as an obedient disciple. Let us teach him to obey all the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A newly born baby needs all the help we can give him. The newly converted also need help. We should incorporate them into the blessings of fellowship with Christ and His Church.

We incorporate him into the church and a discipleship program as soon as he is baptized. Then he will grow in maturity and holiness of life.

NO:



Trying to sanctify oneself first, before entering.

WITH WHOM DOES BAPTISM UNITE US?

Baptism emphasizes our union with the Lord Jesus Christ, and all other believers. It is a testimony of faith in God (and to man). When Philip baptized the Ethiopian in the desert, they were far from any church or other believers. Only Philip and the Ethiopian, with his servants, were present, but at the moment of his conversion and baptism, the Ethiopian was united with Christ and with all believers from all times in the Church. According to Colossians 2:11-13, by faith we are buried together with Christ and raised with Him for new life, through baptism. Thus we are united with Him, and through Him, with all believers everywhere.

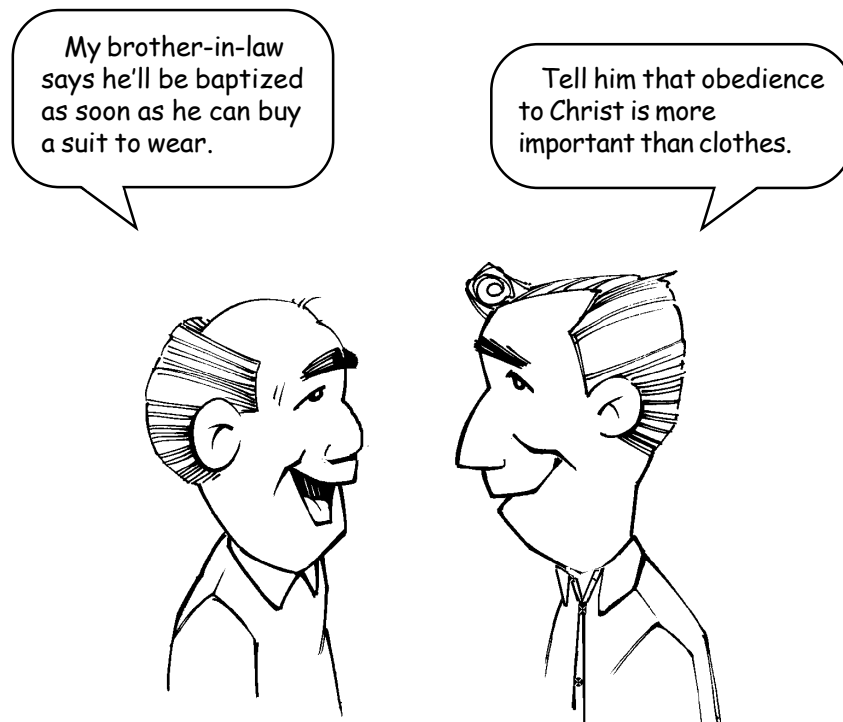
Baptism emphasizes our union with Christ. It is an act of faith that proclaims a new relationship with God.



BY THE WORD OF GOD we announce to the new believer the full forgiveness of his sins and his eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.

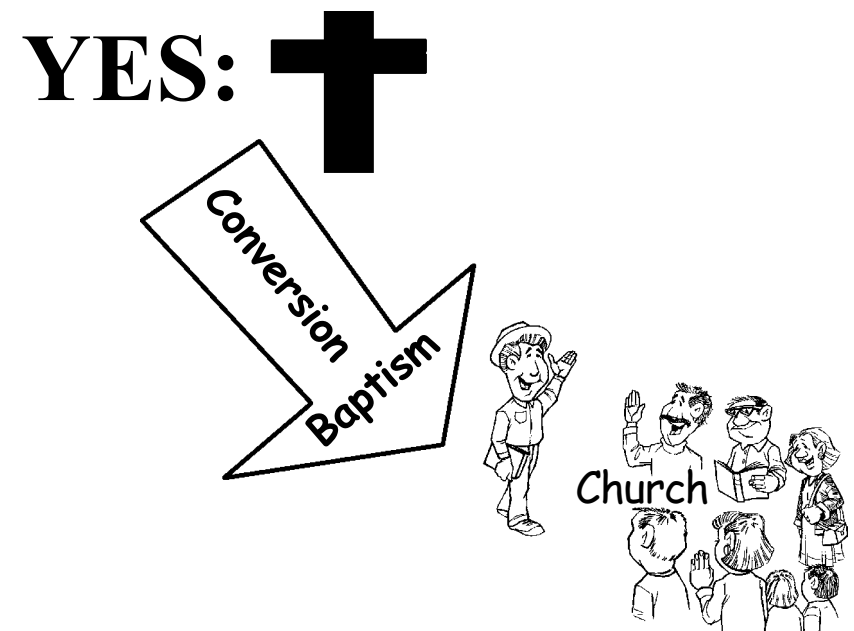
(Acts 10:43)

BY BAPTISM we affirm his union with Christ and His Body the Church. We trust the Spirit of God to complete the good work that He has begun in his heart.



WHEN ARE WE PERFECTED?

According to the Apostles' practice, the first step of obedience and faith for the new believer was baptism. From then on he would continue his growth in Christian perfection within the church, under good pastoral care. A new, sincere believer receives baptism, not because he has made himself holy, but because he has repented and begun a new life. Then he goes on to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Sanctification (being made holy) continues as the Holy Spirit transforms us more and more into the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18)



Growth in Christ-like character within the Body.