

Baptism: It's Time!

1. It's Time: There is One Baptism (Ephesians 4:4-6)

*4*There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— *5*one Lord, one faith, one baptism, *6*one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:4-6

- There is one baptism
 - not a separate baptism for the mature
 - not a separate baptism for babies
 - not a separate baptism for pastors and one for everyone else
- Learn what it is. Get it done quickly in obedience to Christ.

2. It's Time: Baptism Does Not Make You a Christian. Baptism is for Those Who Are Trusting Christ (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4)

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. –Acts 2:38

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:4

- The act of Baptism is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All who wish to be identified with Jesus' forgiveness that comes through his death, burial and resurrection will be baptized.

3. It's Time: Jesus Christ Commanded Baptism (Matthew 28:18-20)

*18*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *19*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them *in* the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *20*teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” –Matthew 28:18-20

- Citing His authority over heaven and earth, Jesus commanded baptism for all who believe in Him.
 - Baptism is not a suggestion
 - Baptism is not a fun idea to consider
 - Baptism is not a meaningless Christian ceremony
 - Baptism is obedience to Jesus Christ

- If you follow Jesus Christ, get baptized

4. It's Time...For a Clean Conscience Be Baptized (1 Peter 3:21)

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ --1 Peter 3:21

-There are few things more important than having a clear conscience.

- God wants us to have a clear conscience:
 - About our sin in God's sight
 - About our obedience to Christ's commands
- He's given us a washing ceremony that reminds us of our reason for a clear conscience.
 - We (and witnesses) will remember this event
 - We go under the water
- God wants us to do the ceremony
 - Demonstrate our need for cleansing
 - Demonstrate our faith in Christ's resurrection for that cleansing

5. It's Time: Get Baptized Publicly (Matthew 10:32 & Acts 8:34-38)

32So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, **33**but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 10:32-33

*Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. **36**And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **38**And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. - Acts 8:35-38*

But: What if I don't want it to be public?

- If you're not ready to have your baptism be known, you might not be a follower of Christ yet
- Once you believe in Jesus in the right way, you won't care who knows

But: What about the Ethiopian eunuch?

- Even with the Ethiopian eunuch, there were witnesses for the baptism
 - At least 2: Philip & the chariot driver [and he commanded the chariot to stop]

6. It's Time: Biblical Baptism is a Conscious Choice by the One Being Baptized (All Scriptures RE: Baptism & Acts 16:32-34)

32And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
33And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. **34**Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. – Acts 16:32-34

-You can't be baptized to obey Christ, for a clear conscience if someone else decides it for you

-Classic Proof Text = Acts 16:32-34

-“All his family was baptized”

-common assumption that this means he chose baptism for babies

-There were no babies mentioned

-v. 32 -- all heard the Word

-v. 34 -- all rejoiced

-Not a vicarious baptism

-They all believed & they all were baptized

-There is nothing inherently valuable about attacking other traditions

-Rather, groundless attacks are dangerous (Psalm 133; Jn. 17:22; 1 Cor. 8:13; 1 Jn. 4:11-12)

-All traditions must bow to the Word of God

-Baptism is Biblical when it is pursued according one's own conscience and will

7. It's Time: Baptism is Worth Celebrating! (Acts 16:32-34)

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-Baptism is worth celebrating because:

-It's evidence of the miracle of conversion

-It's a reminder of God working through his Word

-It's a demonstration of obedience to Christ

-It's a demonstration of boldness for people to speak up for their faith in Christ.