

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Water Baptism

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

THEOLOGY

Calvary Old Path believes that water baptism is not necessary for salvation. Instead, it is a public declaration of one's faith in and identification with Jesus Christ.

DOCTRINE

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinance of full immersion water baptism for the church.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

Matthew 28:19

We will look at this topic in these areas.

1. What is Baptism?
2. What is the Origin of Baptism?
3. Jesus' Baptism.
4. Why Do We Get Baptized?
5. Believer's Path of Faith.
6. Misconceptions Regarding Baptism.
7. Qualifications For Baptism.
8. The Difference Between Water Baptism and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is performed by full water submersion. The Greek word is **Baptizō**—Strong’s Concordance G907 to immerse, to submerge.

What is the Origin of Baptism?

The practice of water baptism had long been a Jewish tradition of purification and initiation to Judaism long before the coming of the Messiah. The origins of baptism can be found in the book of Leviticus where the Levite priests were commanded to perform a symbolic cleansing in water before and after performing their priestly duties.

Leviticus 16:4

Jesus’ Baptism

When Jesus was about 30 years old having lived His life quietly as a carpenter, He came to the wilderness where John the Baptist was preaching. John the Baptist had been prophesized in *Isaiah 40:3* as *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”* And in fulfillment of this prophetic word, he had been proclaiming the coming of the Messiah and man’s need of a Savior. John the Baptist has been described as a forerunner or precursor to Jesus as one, *“...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* *Luke 1:17*

Jesus then asked to be baptized by him but John, acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah, tried to prevent Him saying, *“I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me? But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’”* *Matthew 3:14-15*

So, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. As He came up from the water, we read, *“...behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting (settling) upon Him. Then suddenly a voice came from Heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”*

Matthew 3:16-17



Why Do we Get Baptized?

1) We are commanded to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19, Acts 22:16

First, baptism is a symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. As we are immersed in water, we are giving the visual testimony of the death and burial. As we come out of the water, we demonstrate the resurrection of Christ.

2) We are making a public declaration.

1 Peter 3:21

Second, baptism is a public testimony to the washing away of our sins. Jesus Himself was baptized. He is our ultimate example to fulfill all righteousness *Matthew 3:13-17* and to pledge a good conscience toward God *1 Peter 2:21*.

Once a person trusts Christ as their Savior the next step is water baptism. *Acts 2:38*

3) We are identifying with Christ.

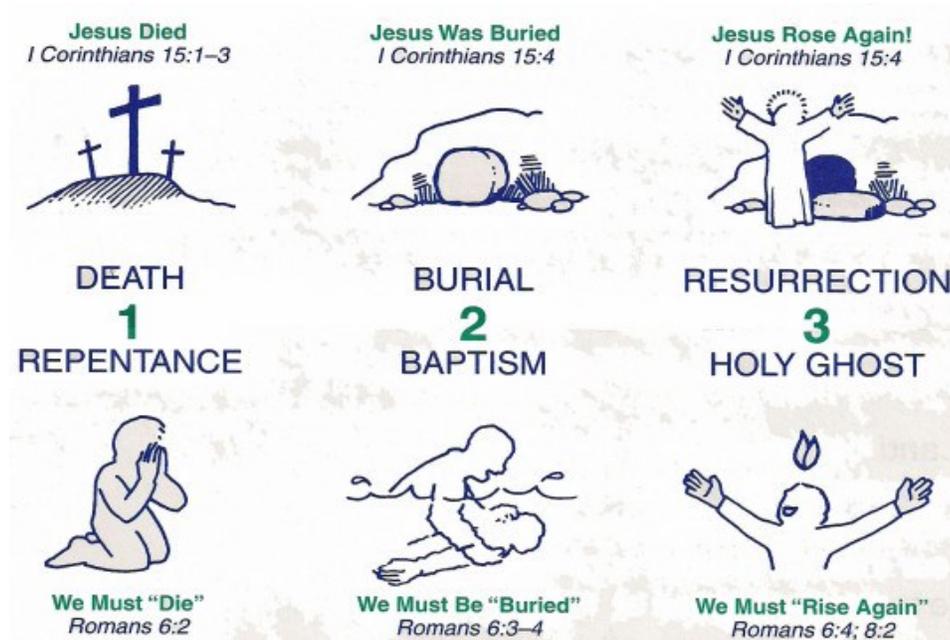
Romans 6:3-4

Third, baptism represents our personal identification with Christ. We now live as forgiven followers of Christ empowered by the Spirit of God.

A symbol of the work of the Spirit that has transpired within the heart.

Romans 6:3-4

Believer's Path of Faith.



Jesus Instructed Us to Baptize Our New Converts.

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”

Examples of baptisms:

Jesus’ Disciples Baptized their Converts – *John 3:22, 4:1-2*

New Converts on the Day of Pentecost – *Acts 2:41*

Samaritan Converts – *Acts 8:12*

Ethiopian Eunuch – *Acts 8:36-39*

The Apostle Paul – *Acts 9:18, 22:16*

The Household of Cornelius – *Acts 10:47-48*

The Household of Lydia – *Acts 16:14-15*

The Jailer and His Household – *Acts 16:27-34*

Crispus and many Corinthians – *Acts 18:8*

Ephesian Disciples – *Acts 19:1-5*

Misconceptions Regarding Baptism

I need to be baptized in order to be saved.

This is not true. Baptism does not secure salvation. A person is saved by accepting the free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus. It is inaccurate that a person is not saved until they are baptized. We are saved the moment we put our hope, faith, and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 1:17*

Examples of converts that were not baptized:

Thief on the Cross—*Luke 23:39-43*

Penitent Woman - *Luke 7:37-50*

Paralytic Man—*Matthew 9:2*

Tax Collector—*Luke 18:13-14*

“Unfortunately, various innovations and heresies were gradually introduced regarding baptism: that one must be baptized to be saved; indeed, that baptism itself saves the soul even when administered to infants. These heresies became known as the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. Most Protestants holding these beliefs today are not aware that they originated with the Roman Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.”

**Thebereancall.org March 1, 1995 Dave Hunt*

I was baptized as an infant, therefore, I do not need to be baptized again.

Infant baptism is not the same as making a mature and intentional decision of this public declaration, *Acts 10:48*. If you have never been baptized as either an older child (not an infant) or as an adult, we encourage you to read what the Scriptures instruct to those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have committed their lives to Him by faith through His grace.

Catholics practice infant baptism, which they consider a gift of God's grace. Infants and young children are “baptized in the faith of the Church” (CCC, 1282). So important is baptism in the Catholic faith that they teach that an unbaptized child who dies either goes to hell or to purgatory.

Misconceptions Regarding Baptism Cont.

Baptism literally washes away my sins.

This is not true. Some will use Acts 22:16 as the verse to justify washing away of their sins into the water, but the Bible teaches acknowledging the finished work of the cross.

Qualifications for Baptism

Only for the saved

Faith in Christ *Acts 8:37*

Confessions of sin *Matthew 3:6*

Repentance of sin *Acts 2:38*

Mental capacity to understand salvation

The Difference Between Water Baptism and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist says in *Matthew 3:11* “*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*”

In John's words both are **identification**. Baptism was identifying with the life of repentance and moving away from sin. Baptism in The Holy Spirit is an identification with the work and power of the resident Holy Spirit, with, in and upon the believer.

For further reading on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit refer to booklet on ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***.



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.