

BAPTISM

Years ago I was asked if you have to be baptized to be saved. Let's take a look at why someone would even ask that question.

Matt.28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. So be it.

Here Jesus told His disciples to teach all nations and baptize them.

Mark 16:15-16 - And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Again, here in Mark Jesus told His disciples to preach the gospel to everyone and to baptize whoever believes and says those believers will be saved. You could almost read that thinking it is saying if you are not baptized then you are not saved. But notice it ended with he that doesn't believed shall be damned. It didn't say the one who believes but didn't get baptized shall be damned.

Baptism is an act of obedience that should follow closely on the heels of salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation is a free gift from God. It is by His grace when we have faith that we are saved. There is nothing we as humans can do to deserve salvation or earn it in our own strength. It does not say that you also must be baptized or else you are not saved. It does not have a caveat on it stating you must have faith and be baptized. No salvation is freely given by God the moment faith is present in your heart. The moment you believe Jesus died on that cross for your sins and that He rose again and is alive forevermore seated at God's right hand. Then you are saved.

If you make baptism a requirement for salvation then it demeans the sufficiency and significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is just a symbol or an outward show or witness to the public of what has already happened in the heart and life of one who has believed and accepted Jesus Christ as his or her Savior.

Baptism only saves one from a bad conscience but does not save a person from sin.

1 Peter 3:21 - The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The Jews had many cleansing rituals and Peter is showing that baptism was not a ceremonial act of cleansing the filth of the flesh but a pledge of a good conscience towards God. Baptism is a vital step of obedience that every Christian should take as an outward show of the salvation that has taken place in the heart.

Christ gave the responsibility of water baptism to His Apostles. Today, those called to the five fold ministry are the ones who administer water baptism. They are the ones who can teach you as Christ commanded so that you can learn and grow into a true disciple of Christ. When you are baptized it must be a full immersion just as it was with Jesus. **(Matt.3:13-17)** The person must be completely dunked under the water, because the original Greek word for baptism means to dip or plunge. Sprinkling or pouring water is not accepted.

Romans 6:4 – Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

When you go under the water it is symbolic of being buried in death with Christ and when you come up out of the water it is symbolic of being risen with Christ to live a new life in Him. Water baptism is an outward show of a life that has changed spiritually on the inside.

In Catholicism they believe baptism is a gateway to faith. It is the first of the sacraments of initiation (along with confirmation and communion).

Baptism does not lead you to faith. Baptism does not come first. Also, look at the wording The Roman Catholic Church uses, they consider water baptism to be part of a person's initiation into that false religion which is a cult. The things they believe and practice are not Biblical.

We just read the scriptures where God gives the gift of salvation to us freely of His grace when we have faith. Jesus told His disciples to go out and spread the gospel and teach all nations and whoever believes the good news of Christ shall be saved and when they believe, then baptize them. The Roman Catholic Church is perverting baptism. I cannot come ahead of faith.

They believe that water baptism removes original sin and any personal sin committed prior to the rite. Water baptism does not remove any sin ever.

Hebrews 9:22 - And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

In the Old Testament God's saints had to abide by His sacrificial system in order to have their sins forgiven from year to year. Today, those who believe in Christ have received what He did on the cross in dying and shedding His holy blood so that our sins could be forgiven. God does not forgive sin without bloodshed and Jesus shed His blood once and for all – for all time. **(Hebrews 9:12)** Shame on them for perverting God's Word to the degree that they have.

Catholicism teaches that at water baptism the person becomes an adopted child of God and a temple of The Holy Spirit.

This is completely wrong and flies in the face of Scripture. You become an adopted child of God when you have faith in Christ and Who He is and what He has done for you. Not through water baptism. You do not receive The Holy Spirit until you are saved through faith. So what they teach and deceive people into believing is that just through the physical act of being baptized, you now have faith, you are cleansed from all sin, you are a child of God and you have The Holy Spirit inside of you. They are completely leaving out real salvation which is when you believe that Christ died for your sins, that He was crucified and rose from the dead on the 3rd day and is seated at God's right hand forevermore. **(Romans 10:9-13)**

They are not sharing the gospel message, they are cutting Christ out.

They believe that water baptism leaves an indelible spiritual seal on the soul, meaning it is a one-time event that cannot be repeated. Again, water baptism does not seal you with God's mark. When you truly believe in Jesus, that's when faith is present and that's when The Holy Spirit comes in and that is when you are

sealed. Water Baptism has nothing to do with you being sealed in the spirit realm, marked out by God and for God. It most certainly can be repeated. When I was a teenager I was baptized but went away from God and wasn't living for Him. In my early 40's I really and truly got saved and I was baptized again. If you look back and you aren't sure what you really understood at the time of your baptism, it's ok to get baptized again or if you didn't really understand as a teenager and want to be baptized as an adult, it's perfectly fine to be baptized again. We don't make a habit of it but in those circumstances, it's fine to do it again. You are making a statement to the world that there's a spiritual change in your life, that you have come to Christ and belong to Him and are living a life that is set apart for His glory now.

AI says this about water baptism in The Catholic Church: The sacrament of baptism is the foundational Christian rite of initiation using water to wash away sin, unite a person with Jesus Christ, and welcome them into the Church. It is the first sacrament a person receives and marks a spiritual rebirth.

The usage of the word initiation speaks of the occult. Members of secret societies, of freemasonry, of the illuminati are all initiated. The Roman Catholic Church is a cult and one day I am going to do a new sermon series on it. Water Baptism is not how you are reborn and I just went over all the points the Catholic church teaches about water baptism and how each one is not Scriptural.



This is the now deceased pope baptizing a baby. They pour a little scoop of water on their head.



This baby is getting a little more water on its head.

Babies cannot be baptized because they are not old enough to understand what the shed blood of Christ means. A person must be to the age of accountability and understand the gospel message, understand what Jesus' crucifixion and shed blood means and believe in Jesus before they can be water baptized. You cannot have faith if you do not understand Who Jesus is and what He did for all of mankind.

I want to share with you about meeting a Catholic woman who was near death and what our conversation was. She was my neighbor and needed a ride back and forth to dialysis for a few months. I knew she was Catholic and I wanted to talk to her about Jesus. We would make small talk in the car on the way to dialysis and on the way back home. She was fine with that. When I asked her what her favorite book of the Bible was, she didn't know. I asked her what her favorite Bible character was and she didn't have one. One day I asked her when she was saved and she said, oh you know way back there. This woman was in her early 80's, she had already lived a long life. So I said well do you remember how old you were or anything? She said, no, that she was very young and basically indicated that there must have been a lot of people there when she was saved. I told her that God had sent me to her to get her life in order. I asked her if she would like to talk about Jesus. She got mad, I mean very mad, her facial expression went straight to anger at the mention of Jesus. She told me no, she did not want to talk about Him. So I had to drop the subject. If she were a real Christian she would have been happy to talk about Jesus. She didn't remember being saved because

as a Roman Catholic person, your parents have you water baptized as a baby or toddler and you don't even remember it. She didn't know anything about it but was trying to refer to some ceremony she attended when she was very young. What utter nonsense. This woman was not saved, did not know Jesus and died not long after that. Unless she repented and had a change of heart, she's in hell now.

Matt.3:13-17 - Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be* so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

You see the Trinity Here. God The Father spoke from heaven, God The Son was in the water and God The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus. John knew that Jesus was God and he didn't want to baptize Him. He knew that seemed like it should be the other way around but Jesus had to be baptized in water because that is the way God wanted things to be done. Jesus is our example and He commanded us to be baptized in water after salvation. Notice He was fully immersed in the water because it says He came up out of the water. It was not sprinkled on Him, it wasn't poured on Him, but He was fully immersed in the water.



They decided to put this baby into the water. Putting this baby down into the water doesn't do it either because he's a baby! He doesn't know anything except he's not happy!

There are people who get saved on their death bed and don't have opportunity to be baptized, but not being baptized does not cancel their salvation. Remember God's Word says whoever calls on the name of The Lord shall be saved. **(Romans 10:13, Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21)** A person who is about to die can come to faith in the last moments of their life and there is no time to get baptized. If true faith is present in their hearts and minds, then they are saved and will be in heaven.

If you know you are supposed to be baptized and you purposely do not get baptized then that is disobedience to God's Word. Every act of disobedience will be punished. The truth you know and you don't obey it then its sin before God. **(James 4:17)** Jesus said if you love Me and are My true disciples then you must obey My commandments (Word).

CLOSING

The Roman Catholic Church gets away with the things they do because they still seem to be adhering to the dark ages where only the clergy was allowed to read God's Word and teach the people. Since the people are not studying to show themselves approved unto God, they remain in ignorance. **(2 Tim.2:15)** They aren't reading or asking questions. Their parishioners are not studying God's Word and therefore have no knowledge of Jesus and do not know Him. They are a perfect example of **Hosea 4:6** where God states that His people perish for lack of knowledge of Him.

Believing you are not saved unless you are baptized is a wrong belief. Baptism is a sacred command given by Jesus. Soon after you are saved you should be water baptized as an act of obedience.

I don't baptize anyone under the age of 15. I also don't baptize anyone who has not met the discipleship requirements of this ministry.

PRAYING