

# Church Directives

## (3) Baptism

### *About Baptism before Pentecost*

In the OT, what was the closest thing to baptism? Lev.8:6; Mk.7:3-4; Heb.9:10

**The Jewish ceremonial washings; some were traditions of the elders. They were temporary**

What is the next chronological (and temporary) baptism? Mt.3:1-6, 11-12

**John the Baptizer, repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Make ready...**

What group did John refuse to baptize? Mt.3:7 Why? Mt.3:8-10

**He rebuked the Pharisees/Sadducees because they were unrepentant. Only "show".**

Who else did John not want to baptize? Why? Mt.3:13-14; Jn.1:29

**He resisted baptizing Jesus because Jesus needed no repentance. Spotless Lamb of God.**

So why then did Jesus get baptized? Mt.3:15

**Jesus declares, "...it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."**

What did Jesus mean by this? Mt.3:16-17 (note *us* in vs.15)

**This was obedience. He (and John) were obedient / submissive to fulfill all righteousness.**

What happens *immediately* when Jesus is baptized? Mt.3:16-17; Jn.1:33-34

**Heaven opened, Holy Spirit descends on Him, Father declares, "...My Son...well pleased"**

What is *very* significant about this? see Mt.28:19; Ex.29:1-9

**Here we see the Trinity; Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Here Jesus is anointed for His work.**

Why is Jesus' baptism key to our understanding of today's Christian baptism? Mt.28:16-20

**Baptism is about obedience and identification. We identify with Him by our obedience!**

### *About Baptism after Pentecost*

Where did the early Church get the idea to Baptize new believers? Mt.28:16-20; Acts 2:37-42

**Jesus commanded it (obedience...) and the Pentecost sermon demanded it (obedience...).**

What does the term Baptize (Gr. baptizō) signify? see Jn.3:23; Acts 8:34-38

**Baptizō = to dip, to immerse fully in a liquid. Not pouring, sprinkling. Always immerse.**

Where/when did 'non-immersion' enter the Church?

**In 1311 at the Council of Ravenna, the Catholic church approved sprinkling.**

Who is to be baptized? Acts 8:36-38; 2:37-42; Mt.28:16-20; etc

**Physical baptism follows salvation (believing). No teaching of 'baptismal regeneration'.**

What is the symbolism involved in Baptism (immersion)? Rom.6:3-5; Col.2:11-12; Gal.3:27

**Buried w/Christ, raised w/Christ. Wash away old, and put on Christ. Public Identification**

Why do local churches often require baptism for membership? Acts 2:41

**Baptism was the public confession of the inward faith. It represents who we are!**

What about re-baptism? Is it ever justified / required?

**If a prior baptism was while unsaved, yes. Also, some churches require 'their' baptism.**

Who is 'authorized' to perform baptism? Mt.28:16-20; Acts 2:37-42

**No direct 'authorizing' for this. Usually set by the local church as Elders / deacons.**