



Immersion is most biblical

symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Saviour Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5).

Immersion is the most biblical mode of baptism because it alone

- fully portrays death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5)
- requires reclothing (Galatians 3:27)
- represents total washing (Hebrews 10:22-25).

As the initial act of Christian obedience, immersion is what the Lord commanded his disciples to do (Matthew 28:19).

Participation in believer's baptism by immersion is the individual's opportunity to give witness to the profound change that has occurred in his/her life through hearing and believing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Contact Us

If you need further help in understanding believer's baptism, please contact Dr. John Oakes. He is willing and able to assist you in discovering the significance and meaning of believer's baptism.

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"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

The text of this brochure is taken, after minor editing by John Oakes, from "Believer's Baptism," a pamphlet published by the North American Baptist Conference. Biblical citations are from the New International Version.



EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

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BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

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Winning and building passionate, life-long followers of Jesus Christ

Inviting Christ into your life as Saviour and Lord is a personal, individual decision that should not be taken lightly or without great thought about the issues involved. When this choice is made, then and only then, is believer's baptism the next important step in a life of obedience to God. Baptism by immersion, to indicate repentance of sin, was practised by John the Baptist (John 1: 26-28). It was established by Jesus Christ himself as an act that would declare a believer's identification with his church.

Baptism after conversion

Proper preparation for baptism follows a person's conversion to belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In the New Testament baptism always followed conversion, and this should be the pattern for the church. This initial act of free obedience to Christ will spiritually strengthen the new believer.

Believer's baptism signifies to the world that the believer desires to be identified as a Christian and a member of the family of God.

A declaration of allegiance

The sequence of hearing, believing, and being baptized is the pattern that is established by Scripture. A person is not baptized in order to believe; one is baptized after one becomes a believer. The person seeking baptism comes, initially, as one who has responded in faith to the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. Submission to the requirement of baptism (for church membership) is the believer's declaration of allegiance to Christ as Lord of his/her life.

"Many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized"

(Acts 18:8).

This newness of life is the result of being reborn through the action of the Holy Spirit when one comes to faith in Jesus



To baptize means to immerse

Christ. The believer's identification with Christ is authenticated through the believer's testimony during baptism. This identification extends to the believer's responsibility to become actively involved in the life and support of a local church.

Immersion is the mode of baptism that is patterned in the New Testament. In the original language, the term "to baptize" means "to immerse." Immersion best visualizes the spiritual meaning of the ordinance of baptism as established by Jesus Christ.

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience