

Discipleship 101: Basics of the Christian Life
Lesson 2: What the Bible Teaches About Baptism and Communion

I. THREE DISTINCTIVES ABOUT BAPTISM.

1. Baptism is for those who are old enough to Respond To The Gospel.

There is no record of infant baptism in scripture.

Mark 16:16 *“¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

Romans 10:9 *“⁹That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Acts 2:38 *“...Repent and be baptized...”*

Faith, confession and repentance are prerequisites for baptism.

2. Baptism is by Immersion.

Baptism means immersion, which means to dip, plunge or submerge in water. Immersion was the practice of the early church and was never called into question until several centuries after the church began.

Baptism is symbolic of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-5 *“³Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”

This passage says baptism is a Burial and that could only mean Immersion.

3. Baptism is for the Forgiveness of sins and the Reception of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 *“³⁸Peter replied, “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.”*

Baptism is the means for being united with Christ. In baptism, Christ forgives us and comes to live in us through the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:27 *“²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”*

I Corinthians 12:4 *“⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.”*

Hebrews 2:3,4 says *“This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”*

Paul and the other Apostles were able to perform miracles so that the people knew that what they were speaking was of God.

I Corinthians 13:8-10 *“But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.”*

So we believe that the supernatural, miraculous gifts, were needed at one time to confirm the message when it had not yet been completed, but now that we have the completed word of God, the supernatural sign gifts are no longer necessary.

Titus 3:3-7 *³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

II. CONCLUDING PRINCIPALS OF BAPTISM.

1. The act of baptism does not save us, Christ Does.

Ephesians 2:8,9 *“⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

2. Baptism is the point in time where we can be Confident of God’s Forgiveness.

I Peter 3:21 “²¹and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”

Christ made his Pledge to us at the Cross. We make our Pledge back to him at Baptism.

3. In the New Testament baptism was performed The Same Day that a person surrendered to Christ.

Acts 8:36-39 ³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

In the Book of Acts every conversion was accompanied by baptism:

Acts 2:37-41	Acts 16:15
Acts 8:12	Acts 16:30-33
Acts 8:36-38	Acts 18:8
Acts 10:47, 48	Acts 22:16

4. Baptism should be a source of Unity not Division, among Christians.

Ephesians 4:3-5 “³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”

Baptism and communion were such an important part of New Testament worship, that it’s important for Christians to have a good grasp of their meaning.

III. THREE DISTINCTIVES ABOUT COMMUNION.

1. We observe “Open” Communion.

We believe that communion was established by Christ and it’s given at His invitation.

I Corinthians 11:28,29 “²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

2. We observe communion Weekly.

I Corinthians 11:23-25 “²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Acts 20:7 “⁷On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.”

When the early church came together, they came together to **Break Bread** on the first day of the week.

I Corinthians 11:29 “²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

John 6:53 “⁵³Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.”

I Corinthians 11:29,30 “²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.”

3. Communion is a **Participation** in the body of Christ.

I Corinthians 10:16 “¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?”

Communion is more than just a **Symbol**. It is a time of **Union** with Christ and his followers.