

Baptism

Matthew 28:19, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

Regarding infant baptism, Christ makes it clear that those who are made disciples are to be baptized. Baptism follows being made a disciple. A disciple is simply a follower of Christ (compare Matthew 16:24 and Luke 14:27). Can an infant be a follower of Christ? Does an infant have the understanding to choose to believe in Christ and be saved (John 3:16)? The answer to both of these questions is no. An infant is not even capable of simple communication (beyond crying and gesturing) let alone understanding. Being baptized as an infant does not follow Christ’s command in Matthew 28:19. You must be baptized.

Regarding non-immersion baptism, the literal translation of the word “baptism” in the New Testament is submersion or immersion. Christ’s command in Matt. 28:19 could have literally been “immersing them in the name...” Christ is clear in His expectation of what baptism is. Sprinkling or pouring, while still symbolizing purification, does not meet the literal instruction of Christ (Num 31:23). You must be baptized.

Regarding baptism in the Church of Christ, as previously stated baptism follows being made a disciple. Baptism does not precede or coincide with becoming a disciple. Please evaluate when you truly became a believer. Look to John 3:16, Eph. 2:8, and Luke 14:27 for what it means to believe. If your baptism by immersion followed your salvation (being made a disciple), then your baptism follows Christ’s instruction. However, if your baptism coincided or preceded your salvation, you must be baptized.

Regarding the significance of baptism, you must be baptized for at least two reasons. 1) Christ commands it as seen in Matthew 28:19. 2) Baptism is a symbol of your sinful self being buried with Christ and then

raised again to walk clothed in Christ by faith in God who rose Christ (Col 2:11; Gal 3:27).

Regarding being scared to be in front of people, Scripture indicates that we should not be ashamed of the Gospel (Ro. 1:16; 1 Pe. 4:16). We need to boldly take a stand for what we believe. Being baptized is a declaration to the world that you are a follower of Christ. You must be baptized.

Baptism is the immersion in water following conversion symbolizing identification in Christ's death as the old self is crucified and restoration to new life in the Spirit through faith in God who raised Christ from the dead (Matt. 28:19; Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:11; Gal. 3:27).