

Lesson 2
Scriptural Baptism
Mark 16:16

Scriptural baptism is non-optional for the believer.

To deny the observance of this ordinance is to deny Christ. It is the God ordained way of identifying with Him.

Rom. 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.

Scriptural baptism is required to fulfill all righteousness.

Matt. 3:15 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.

This is the idea of baptism being the first step of obedience. You cannot fulfill all righteousness until you have observed the first.

Scriptural baptism requires a proper candidate.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

*Acts 8:5-12 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. **6** And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. **7** For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. **8** And there was great joy in that city. **9** But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: **10** To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. **11** And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. **12** But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

1 Pet. 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:

*Matt. 3:7-8 [credible profession] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

Scriptural baptism requires a proper mode. (Rom. 6:1-4)

Jn. 3:23 And John also was baptizing in AEnon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Col. 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Scriptural baptism requires a proper administrator.

The ordinances are church ordinances. Christ gave them to be performed by the church only (Matt. 28:19-20)

This is also proven in the meaning of baptism:

1. It is separation from the world to Christ.

*Acts 2:40-42 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. **41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:21)*

2. It is a declaration to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:1-4; Col. 2:12, 3:1)

3. It is the door to church membership. (Rom. 6:1-5)

*1 Cor. 12:13, 27 **13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

<p>All Believers are members of Christ's body. As members we identify with Christ, His doctrine, and His people through baptism. This is how the church identifies you as a believer, to give you the hand of fellowship.</p>

*Acts 2:41, 47 **41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

4. It is identification with right doctrine. (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:16-18)