

# Why Water Immersion (Baptism)?

The church is a body of believers and of believers only and our insistence on believers' baptism is a natural consequence of our view of the church which comes directly from the New Testament.

## Why We Water Immerse (Baptize)

We could not abandon the practice of water immersion (baptism) without ignoring both the example and the command of Jesus.

1. *Jesus set a personal example by asking John to water Immerse (baptize) him, and at first John hesitated.*

### **Matthew 3:13-14**

**[13] Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. [14] John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"**

2. *Jesus insisted that John baptize him.*

### **Matthew 3:15**

**[15] But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.**

3. *Jesus' command to water Immerse (baptize) is very evident in the Scriptures in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20.*

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

**[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

4. *In the Great Commission, Jesus **commanded** His followers to go into all the world making disciples.*

*Making disciples is the church's main business!!*

*But two things must follow:*

- water immersion (*Baptism*)
- *Education in Jesus' teachings*

### **Why Insist on Immersion**

Baptism is from the word (*baptizō*) and when literally translated means to totally immerse. The meaning of this word comes from the act of taking a material and placing it under water. This was done for washing and also dyeing clothing and other materials. So why not translate baptism properly as immersion? The translators were afraid of the repercussions it would cause or they did not want to make changes in the way they were doing things and so to avoid these two realities they transliterated this words. Truth is more important than tradition, and God's original intentions are better than man's religious teachings so we will not use this transliterated words and instead we will translate them properly.

### **Mark 6:14**

**[14] King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."**

1. *The reference to "John the baptizing one" (or 'John the Baptist') in Mark 6:14 might be translated, literally, "John the Dipper".*

### **The Meaning of Water Immersion (Baptism)**

Baptism is a means by which believers publicly acknowledge their total commitment to Christ and dramatize their belief of 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

### **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

**[3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4]that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**1. Water Immersion (Baptism) is:**

- *An outward manifestation of an inward condition.*
- *Showing others what you believe.*
- *Demonstrating to a watching world that Jesus is your Savior.*
- *Saying that as we are lowered in the likeness of His death that we are raised to walk in newness of life.*

A group of men being sworn into the army were told by the officer in charge:

*“Remember, whenever you wear the uniform that has been issued to you, you are not representing just yourself; you are representing the Army of the United States”.*

*We might think of water Immersion (baptism) as putting on the uniform of Christ.*

**Reflection:**

The eminent biblical scholar, T. R. Glover, while visiting India for the YMCA met some Indian students who said they wanted to be Christians, provided they would not be compelled to make a profession of faith or join a church.

They wanted to remain inside the Hindu or Muslim community and subscribe privately to Christian beliefs.

That experience convinced Glover that Jesus had put baptism in just the right place, at the very beginning of a life of Christian discipleship (Cook, 110).

*We should be eager to be water Immersed (baptized) after becoming a Christian, to publicly proclaim our love for the Savior and our desire to be identified with him!*