

God's Family Reunion

We typically enjoy family reunions. We enjoy getting together and associating with those whom we are related to and those whom we love. Christians in the Lord's church are a "family"; a household of God (Ephesians 2:19; 3:14-15; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:17). What are some family reunions that Christians enjoy in the Lord's church?

First, there is **WORSHIP**: the weekly reunion. Spending time with our spiritual family each Sunday is a special reunion. It is a great time to worship God and to encourage each other (Acts 2:42, 46; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 3:8-9; 1 John 4:21). Christians should never forsake their weekly reunion which builds up (Acts 20:7; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25).

Second, there is **REPENTANCE**: the family reunion. When erring Christians repent and come back to God and to their brethren it is a special reunion (Luke 15:11-32; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11). Christians should contact their erring brethren and admonish them to be reunited with God and their family again (Galatians 6:1-2).

Third, there is **HEAVEN**: the eternal reunion. When faithful Christians make it to heaven it will be a special reunion (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Christians should always live faithfully so that they can be with God in heaven and be reunited with their brethren there (Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Hebrews 12:23). - Chris Reeves

Upcoming Events

- August 26: Teen bible study at the Montague's house, 1 pm.
- September 21-24: Gospel meeting with Tim Haile, 7 pm weeknights, regular times on Sunday.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited by
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

A Study of Baptism - Part 2

In last week's article, we examined the different baptisms that are mentioned in the New Testament and found that the baptism for all people today is the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5. This is the baptism that Jesus spoke of when he said, "he that believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

In this article, we want to conclude our study by examining three more important truths about baptism: 1) the mode of baptism; 2) the candidate for baptism; and 3) the purpose of baptism.

What is the proper mode of baptism? Baptism is immersion in water. Baptism requires water. Each baptism in God's plan of salvation has water. The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:37) and the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:48) were baptized in water.

Next, baptism requires immersion in water. The Greek words baptizo and baptisma mean "immersion." There are no "modes" (plural) of baptism. To talk about different "modes" of baptism, is like talking about different "colors" of white. There is no "baptism by immersion", because baptism is immersion.

All baptisms in water in the New Testament were immersion in water. The English words in the New Testament related to baptism come from the Greek verb baptō, meaning "to dip" or "to sub-

merge" (see Luke 6:24; John 13:21; Revelation 19:13). There was no person in the New Testament who was ever baptized by having water simply sprinkled on him or poured on him.

Immersion in water is found in the Greek words for baptism and it is also implied by certain New Testament scriptures. For example, John baptized where there was "much water" (John 3:23). Also, the one baptizing and the one baptized would go down into water and come up out of the water (Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:38-39). Lastly, baptism is a burial in water and a rising from water (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12). No dead person is properly buried by simply have some dirt sprinkled on him or poured on him.

Who is the proper candidate for baptism in the New Testament? Who should be baptized? In the New Testament, the emphasis is not on the age of a person per se, but the emphasis is on the person's mental maturity. The person who is old enough to be a penitent believer is the person who is to be baptized.

There are some prerequisites of baptism found in the New Testament. The prerequisites are: 1. Hear the gospel. The person must first be teachable (Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 18:8). 2. A believer. The person must first be able to believe and put his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:12-13; 18:8). 3. Repentant. The person must first be penitent; sorry for his sins and willing to stop them (Acts 2:38). 4. Confess. The person must first be willing to confess to others

his faith in Jesus (Acts 8:37-38; Romans 10:9-10).

All that is left to do is to be obedient to the command to be baptized (Luke 7:29-30; Acts 2:41; 10:48). In the New Testament, men and women (Acts 8:12), sinners (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), morally good people (Acts 10:1-2,48), and religious people (Acts 8:26-38; 19:1-6) were baptized.

What is the proper purpose of baptism? Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Baptism washes away sins (Acts 22:16). When a person is baptized, he is placed into a right spiritual relationship with Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:16; 10:47-48; 1 Corinthians 1:13-17), he is saved (Mark 16:16), he is placed into Christ (Galatians 3:27), into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3; Col.2:12), and into Christ's body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The one baptized now has a clean conscience (1 Peter 3:21-22; Hebrews 10:22). The one baptized has occasion for rejoicing (Acts 8:39; 16:33-34).

Friend, have you been baptized? Was it the right action (immersion)? Were you the right candidate at the time (a penitent believer)? Was it for the right purpose (for remission of sins)? If you are a Christian, do you truly understand your baptism? Do you remember that your baptism was the start of a new life in Christ? - *Chris Reeves*