

The Essentials
Water Baptism

Heb. 6:1-2
 “baptisms”

The word baptism literally means “to immerse or submerge”.

- Why we don’t sprinkle.

What water baptism is NOT.

- Salvation
 - 1 Cor. 1:17 - *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.*
 - Thief on the cross.
 - Why infant baptism isn’t valid.
- How you join our group
- Only symbolic

Water baptism IS a physical action with spiritual results.

This is also known as a sacrament. There are several of these in the scripture.

Rom. 6:1-4 tells us what water baptism is meant to accomplish.

*Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and **were buried with Christ by baptism**. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. (NLT)*

Notice the full *identification* with Christ here!

What has died and needs to be buried?

- Rom. 6:6 - *knowing this, that **our old man** was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

The victory of Jesus over sin is ours, but it is not automatic. Faith is required.

*Col. 2:12 - **buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead***

You are at one of three places today.

- (1) You have NOT yet truly given your life to Jesus & need His transforming power.
- (2) You have been transformed, but have not been baptized SINCE then.
- (3) You HAVE been properly ‘buried’, and God wants you to walk in resurrection reality.

Which one are you?