

WHAT BAPTISM SAYS

about me

First, what it says about God

- **Our God is loving, merciful, and makes the way for us to be saved. He is the power behind baptism. Notice the language of Titus 3:3-7 – “he saved us”, “washing”, “He poured out.”**

First, what it says about God

- **Our God is loving, merciful, and makes the way for us to be saved. He is the power behind baptism. Notice the language of Titus 3:3-7 – “he saved us”, “washing”, “He poured out.”**
- **Baptism shows God’s action as well as His feelings toward lost mankind. Both Ephesians 2:4-6 and Colossians 2:10-13 frame baptism in these terms (“He made us alive”, “He raised us up”, “He seated us”, “we are made complete”, our “sins removed”).**

First, what it says about God

- **Our God is loving, merciful, and makes the way for us to be saved. He is the power behind baptism. Notice the language of Titus 3:3-7 – “he saved us”, “washing”, “He poured out.”**
- **Baptism shows God’s action as well as His feelings toward lost mankind. Both Ephesians 2:4-6 and Colossians 2:10-13 frame baptism in these terms (“He made us alive”, “He raised us up”, “He seated us”, “we are made complete”, our “sins removed”).**
- **But baptism is not a passive experience on our part...**

ROMANS 6

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin . . .

ROMANS 6

...For the one who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.



MY BELIEF AND MY MY BAPTISM

go hand-in-hand

- **Jesus Himself linked belief and baptism in Mark 16:16. Philip also said as much in Acts 8:37 when the Ethiopian asked what obstacles would prevent him from being baptized.**

- **Jesus Himself linked belief and baptism in Mark 16:16. Philip also said as much in Acts 8:37 when the Ethiopian asked what obstacles would prevent him from being baptized.**
- **In a way, baptism is my proclamation of that belief, similar to the use of the Lord's Supper emblems in 1 Corinthians 11:26. Without genuine belief, it's all just empty ritual.**

- **Jesus Himself linked belief and baptism in Mark 16:16. Philip also said as much in Acts 8:37 when the Ethiopian asked what obstacles would prevent him from being baptized.**
- **In a way, baptism is my proclamation of that belief, similar to the use of the Lord's Supper emblems in 1 Corinthians 11:26. Without genuine belief, it's all just empty ritual.**
- **Baptism means I have chosen a side, that I've accepted Christ's wisdom and His teachings (1 John 2:3-6, 2 John 6).**

***I'm ready to be honest
about how severely sin
has impacted me***

- **Baptism is a total spiritual re-birth according to Romans 6. We don't tear a house down or send a car to the salvage yard until we recognize how irreparable they are. So it is with the spiritual mess we hand over to God through baptism!**

- **Baptism is a total spiritual re-birth according to Romans 6. We don't tear a house down or send a car to the salvage yard until we recognize how irreparable they are. So it is with the spiritual mess we hand over to God through baptism!**
- **I am recognizing that the "old sinful me" has no redeeming qualities, that it has nothing to live for, that it is not worth keeping. In baptism, something old dies so that something new can be born (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:1-6, Galatians 6:14).**

- **Baptism is a total spiritual re-birth according to Romans 6. We don't tear a house down or send a car to the salvage yard until we recognize how irreparable they are. So it is with the spiritual mess we hand over to God through baptism!**
- **I am recognizing that the "old sinful me" has no redeeming qualities, that it has nothing to live for, that it is not worth keeping. In baptism, something old dies so that something new can be born (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:1-6, Galatians 6:14).**
- **One must be "born again" to have a home in God's kingdom (John 3)...**

I WANT TRANSFORMATION
not ceremony

transformation

- If all I cared about was some ceremony to provide a spiritual placebo for my guilt, there are plenty of other more spectacular ways to achieve that.

transformation

- If all I cared about was some ceremony to provide a spiritual placebo for my guilt, there are plenty of other more spectacular ways to achieve that.
- The simplicity and intimacy of baptism helps me to internalize its significance. It is a deeply personal event. The change happens to me on a fundamental level, not merely the washing of dirt from the flesh (1 Peter 3:21).

transformation

- **If all I cared about was some ceremony to provide a spiritual placebo for my guilt, there are plenty of other more spectacular ways to achieve that.**
- **The simplicity and intimacy of baptism helps me to internalize its significance. It is a deeply personal event. The change happens to me on a fundamental level, not merely the washing of dirt from the flesh (1 Peter 3:21).**
- **My obedience to the gospel call is an indication that I'm ready to explore and appraise spiritual things on a deeper level.**