

**WALKING WET
BAPTISM CLASS OUTLINE**

I. Introduction: Baptism in our culture; our goals

II. The Bible and Baptism

- A. Before Jesus
 - 1. Old Testament practices: Ex. 30:17-21
 - 2. John the Baptist: John 1
- B. Comanded by Jesus: Matt. 28:18-20
- C. A unifying and universal experience: Galatians 3:27,28
- D. Always related to and follows the gift of faith: Eph.2:8,9; Acts 2:37f
- E. Integrally linked to being a disciple: Matt. 28:18-20
- F. A visible and public act: James 2:7

III. Baptism's Two Fold Focus: Identification and Separation

- A. Baptism as Identification with Christ: Romans 6:1-11 & Galatians 3:26,27
 - 1. Identifying and participating spiritually in Christ's death
 - 2. Identification and participation with a new life in Christ: Rom.6:4; Colossians 3:1-14 (baptismal ethics)
 - 3. Identification with those anticipating the renewal of all things: Titus 3:5f
 - 4. Identification into the body of Christ: I Cor.12:13
- B. Baptism marks our Separation from the world: Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:13
 - 1. Baptism as a break
 - 2. Old Testament illustration: The Exodus from Egypt—Exodus 12-15 and New Testament analogy in I Corinthians 10:1-5

3. A warning

Baptism is not the end of one's need for faith, obedience and perseverance. Perhaps, we should see it as the beginning of these Christian virtues.

Appendix A What About Infant Baptism?

A. Theological Justification of Infant Baptism

1. While no explicit verses—implied verses: “household” Acts 16:15, 33; I Cor. 1:16
2. No explicit passages forbidding it
3. Seen as the NT fulfillment of OT practice of circumcision—the sign of the covenant between God and his people (but more inclusive than circumcision)
4. Depends on your understanding of sacraments:
Causative vs. declarative; instilling faith vs. response of faith
Affirmation of belonging to the community of faith
5. Normal if not universal practice by 2nd or 3rd centuries

B. Objections to Infant Baptism

1. Post Apostolic practice and w/o clear Biblical support
2. Leads to nominalism; saved because of baptism
3. Weakens link between baptism and discipleship
4. Confusing Baptism as birth into believing community vs. marking personal faith

C. CCF's position

1. Teach believer baptism
2. Leave decision to each individual

Appendix B Preparing for your Baptism

A. Why Prepare?

1. The importance of preparation
2. The practice of preparation

B. How Do I Prepare?

1. Give yourself a place and time away just for preparation for you baptism.
2. Consider Scripture's emphasis on Baptism:
*Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 2:37-47, Galatians 3:26-29, Colossians 1:13, Titus 3:3-8, Romans 6:1-11, I Corinthians 10:1-12, I Corinthians 12: 12,13
*Commit a passage to memory and make it your baptismal verse
3. Spend time in prayer
*Time for thanksgiving for God's mercy: Ephesians 1:1-14, Colossians 1:10-14
*Time for confession of sin: Psalms 51, I John 1:5-2:2
*Time to renounce Satan and his works. To renounce is to consciously, verbally reject and separate yourself from certain bondages, addictions, strongholds of Satan (especially from your pre-Christian days). Ask God's power and protection and peace. I Peter 5:6-9, Mathew 4:1-11, John 10:10, Ephesians 6:10-18

*Pray for grace to stand firm in your faith—that the promises you make on your baptism God will help you live them. 2 Peter 1:10,11, Jude 24,25, Matthew 25

*Meditate and pray about your death and resurrection. I Corinthians 15, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12, 2 Peter 3, Revelations 21:1-8

4. Journal. Write to God what your baptism means.

Make some basic commitments to God

Write out your prayers and what you hear God saying to you about your baptism. Make it so that you can go back often and read your entry.

5. Write a letter to a friend who will witness your baptism.

Tell them what your baptism means to you, ask them to help keep you Accountable.

If you have unresolved conflict with a person because of your sin—make it Right in person or if not possible then write a letter asking forgiveness

6. Fast. Fasting is a good discipline to help you prepare for your baptism. Matthew 6:16-18