



Kendall Community
CHURCH OF GOD

“Making Disciples of All Nations”

“SO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?”

BAPTISM

A Public Witness to a Changed Lifestyle

I. Introduction

- A. Baptism is a “public witness” to a changed lifestyle by ceremony of symbolic washing (immersion) when one accepts Christ as saviour. For new covenant people, the first mention of baptism in the New Testament is by John the Baptist (**Mark 1:1-5**). However, the instructional mandate of water baptism was given by Christ to His disciples:

“Then Jesus came and spoke to them saying, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’” – Matthew 28:18-19 NKJV

- B. When the church was young, the Apostle Peter informed his hearers, “Repent and be baptized.” (**Acts 2:38.**) Baptism from this perspective is the witnessing completion of one who has truly repented and experienced the regeneration of repentance. (**Titus 3:5.**) The word “baptism” (baptizo) suggest a direct meaning of washing or cleansing.
- C. Christ mandated that baptism and its observance be perpetuated “Unto the end of the age.” It is our belief and faith, according to this mandate from Christ, that every New Covenant believer should be baptized, if physically able. If the opportunity of Baptism is presented to the believer, then Baptism should be experienced.

II. Why Should One Be Baptized?

- A. In addition to the above reason, water baptism is enjoined upon the new covenant believer in love and fellowship with fellow believers within the Body of Christ. It is a part of the church’s full fellowship to witness to the world.
- B. Baptism is indeed ‘a public witness to a changed lifestyle,’ but it also should be the believer’s testimony that he/she has decided to follow Jesus. It is the outer sign of and inner commitment to be like Christ or “Christ-Like.” It is important to

note that **Mark 16:16** declares “he who believes and is baptized will be saved.” Baptism without faith to believe in Christ enough to follow Him is meaningless. Therefore, not by the greatest stretch of the imagination or interpretation of the scriptures can anyone be saved by water baptism alone.

- C. The ceremonial rite of water baptism symbolizes our relationship with the death of Jesus Christ; it shows our “oneness” with Christ. (**Romans 6:3-5.**) Baptism becomes a visible and dramatic proclamation of the gospel of Christ in our lives. We are not new covenant believers/Christians because we have been baptized; but rather, we as new covenant believers/Christians have been baptized because we have repented, been regenerated, and are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

III. Then What Is Baptism?

- A. Baptism is also a witness or symbolic of the new covenant believer’s/Christian’s salvation.
- B. Going down into the water by immersion is a public witness that the old life is dead and buried, that a new lifestyle in Christ has been experienced, and that his/her testimony is “God has saved me from my sins.”
- C. Coming up out of the water signifies that we are resurrected as new covenant person in Jesus Christ. (**II Corinthians 5:17.**)

IV. Instructions

- A. Baptismal services will be scheduled every first Sunday evening at 6:00p.m. (Unless scheduled otherwise.)
- B. A mandatory meeting, prior to your baptism, with the Senior Pastor for further instructions concerning your baptism should be scheduled.
- C. On the day of your scheduled baptism, bring a change of undergarments with a light undershirt and light-colored pants.
- D. An elder, deacon or deaconess will be assigned to you. Just before the evening worship, check with them for any last minute instructions.
- E. Make sure that you have checked with the church office for your scheduled baptismal service and your meeting with the Senior Pastor.

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