



I. REVIEW

A. All Christians baptize in response to the words of Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

B. You have an opinion about baptism

C. Christianity believes in baptism yet fights over who’s right

II. LEARNING FROM SCRIPTURE AND HISTORY

A. Baptize – (Greek word) βαπτίζω

- Didn’t start as a “religious” word

B. When did “baptizing” become something religious?

- John the Baptist had a simple message
- **His message was – repent! – turn from your past ways and go a new direction**

Illus - John the Baptist (Greek name) This derivative of the word is never used in any other literature other than Christian Lit. This tells us that when people saw what JB was doing – they didn’t have a word for it.

Matthew 3:13 (TLB) ¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized there by John.

C. It was necessary for Jesus to be baptized by John

Matthew 3:14-15 (TLB) ¹⁴ John didn’t want to do it. “This isn’t proper,” he said. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you.” ¹⁵ But Jesus said, “Please do it, for I must do all that is right.” So then John baptized him.

D. The need to go public

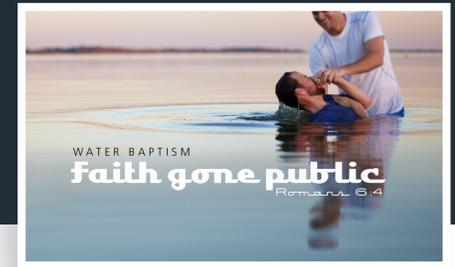
- John’s message was to come out of the crowd and step into the river

III. A NEW WAY OF LIVING

A. The disciples baptized people in the name of Jesus

Acts 19:3 (NLT) ³ “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.”

Acts 19:4-5 (NLT) ⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” ⁵ As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.



C. Baptism like communion paints a picture of redemption

Romans 6:3-6 (NKJV) ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, ⁶knowing 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.

IV. THREE BAPTISM STATEMENTS

- A. Baptism isn't a condition of salvation it's the evidence of salvation
- B. Baptism is a personal declaration of a new associating
- C. Baptism is a public declaration of a new association

The Jordan River was an intersection of public life and the Sunday morning service is an intersection of the life of this church