Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

"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 28:19-20

Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

Today's Questions:

1. What is baptism?
2. Where did baptism come from?
3. How do Baptists view baptism?
4. Why did baptism become a defining issue?
5. What difference does this make for me this week?

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Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

I. The Definition of Baptism

A. Identification with Christ

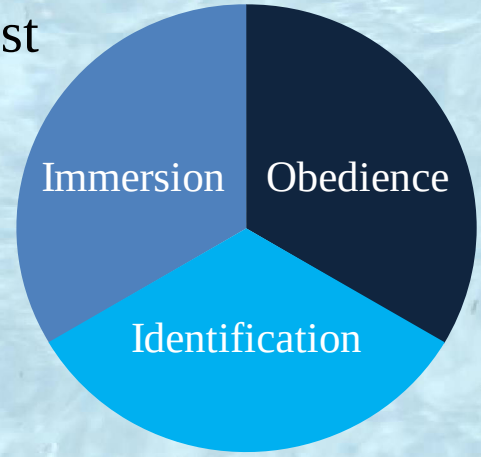
- *Romans 6:3-4*

B. Obedience to God

- *Matthew 28:19-20*

C. Immersion in Water

- *Acts 8:36-38*



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Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

II. The Origin of Baptism

A. The Bible!

B. John the Baptist

- *Mark 1:4-5,8*

C. Jesus Christ

- *John 4:1-2*

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Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

Why are there so many different forms?

Good question! Do some research and let us know what you find so we can all benefit from your work ☺

Although there is value in this type of research, we're going to focus on the correct form of baptism for now.

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III. The Baptist View of Baptism

A. Personal Decision

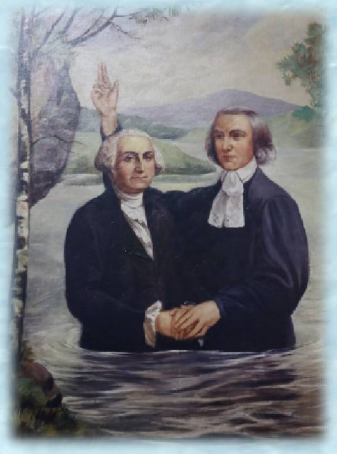
- *Acts 2:41*

B. Symbolic Act

- *Acts 1:5*

C. Full Immersion

- *Mark 1:10*



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IV. The Controversy of Baptism

A. Baptists Were "Rebellious"

B. Baptists Were "Unloving"

C. Baptists Were "Dangerous"

Who wants people like these in your community?

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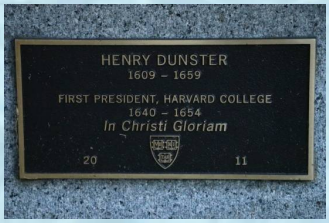
Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

The Example of Henry Dunster



The first president of Harvard, Henry Dunster, was forced to resign after serving for only a little longer than 12 years because he refused to have his infant child baptized. The Puritans viewed his beliefs as a threat to the school and the doctrine they were trying to teach. Dunster died a few years later in shame rather than prestige.

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Why Is Baptism Such a Big Deal?

What Difference Does This Make for Me This Week?

1. Ask yourself what you are depending on for your salvation.
2. If you are not saved, consider the importance of baptism as your next step.
3. Evaluate how you study Scripture and how much importance you place on it.

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