

# Baptism – A New Membership 9-29-09

## BAPTISM SYBOLIZES THE REALITIES OF:

1. The believer's faith in Jesus Christ, the crucified, buried, and risen Savior,
2. The believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus,

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (**Romans 6:4**).

## IMPORTANCE OF FOCUSING ON THE REALITIES OF BAPTISM

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

The people of God, the church, make up the “holy temple of the Lord” where He dwells. Each member is an important part of the spiritual building that is called the “holy temple.” Entering God’s household to become part of his family is much more than a physical act. One of the devil’s lies is meant to keep our thoughts and discussion on the outward and not the spiritual reality. In the light of God’s truth then we focus on the important realities of what baptism means.

**Question: Do you see the importance on focusing on the spiritual realities of baptism? Why?**

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## A NEW MEMBERSHIP

**The theme “new membership” and “no dual memberships” includes but goes beyond card carrying or actual membership in organizations that teach and act in opposition to the member of God’s family. It includes anything that you consistently participate in that you adhere to or join in that is in opposition to the membership rules for members of God’s household.**

## Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 with keeping the prior verses in mind.

One of the spiritual realities of baptism is new membership in God’s household. In order to become a member the old life must be buried, which means buried along with old membership. There are no dual memberships available in God’s household. If you want to keep an old membership then you are automatically disqualified for God’s membership. It is the new you that becomes the member, not the old.

**Question: Do you see the reason why all other memberships must be given up? Why? What kind of memberships would compete with membership in God’s household? Why?**

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## ADDITION STUDY ON THE PROHIBITION OF DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Read Matthew 6:24 with the prior verses in mind.

- ✓ A dead person can’t receive mail. Roman 6:6-8
- ✓ Forsaking all others like in marriage vows Eph 5:31-32
- ✓ The rich ruler didn’t want to give up his trusting in riches membership Luke 18:22
- ✓ A married person not wanting to wear their wedding ring is like disowning God the Father. Matthew 10:32-33
- ✓ Old memberships in the world keep the devil in the driver’s seat Eph 3:10-11
- ✓ Don’t hold on to things that associate you with membership in the world. Get rid of them even if it cost you money and don’t sell them or give them away, trash them. Acts 19:19-20
- ✓ Mean what you say for God knows is you are holding on to the old. Acts 8:13 and Matthew 7:22-23

Why? Because with a single heart of membership in God’s house we will be “conformed to the likeness of His Son,” and that is a very good goal. Rom 8:29

**Question: Does this additional study on one membership only prompt any other areas of your life that compete with God's plan for your life?**

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**Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** It is a testimony to your faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Read Phil 3:20-21.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"  
**(Matthew 28:18-20).**

**Baptism confesses membership in the eternal family of God using a visible picture of what it took to provide redemption and the believer joining in.** Stating with sincerity that you trust in Jesus is necessary to enter the Church as a member of Christ's body, (Eph 5:30) first to God who sees your heart, then to others and the angels in heaven, both good and fallen (Eph 3:9-11). Conversion occurs through believing and baptism is one of the first supporting outward expressions. (See Act 2:40-41)

**Why is looking deeper at baptism important?**

- Low expectations and the easy gospel
- Membership in the 1950's was on the increase.
- The enabler problem

"But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God"  
**John 3:21** (and see Eph 5:8-11)

"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." <sup>18</sup> "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" **2 Corinthians 6:17-18.** (and see Eph. 5:11 for things connected to "deeds of darkness)

Joining the Church as symbolized in baptism may be more than you thought. Are you still interested?

**Believer's baptism and household conversions Acts 16:30-33**

**Baptism is necessary for obedience and confession. Luke 23:40-43 and Matthew 28:19-20.**

**Reality and Ceremony of Baptism:** "In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" **1 Peter 3:20-21.**

**Reality and Ceremony of Baptism:** "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection" **Romans 6:3-5.**

**Baptize is to immerse or plunge under and is the imagery of death and the grave.** The sin nature has been put on the cross of death and buried. The coming up out of the water symbolizes being raised up in the resurrection of Christ, "Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

**"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16).**

**Question: Have you or anyone you know believed in Christ and not been baptized?**

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