

The Mystery of Baptism into the Body of Christ

Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

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,



Baptizo / Baptisma

- The word baptism and baptize are both transliterated words (not translated) which means
 - Baptizo (Greek word) – Baptize (Verb)
 - Baptisma (Greek word) – Baptism (Noun)

It means...

- “to dip completely”
- “to immerse”
- “to plunge”
- “to sink”
- “to submerge”

NB:

- The word baptize (baptizo) is frequently used in the dyeing industry.

Exodus 3:7 (NKJV)

7 And the LORD said: “I have surely **seen** the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have **heard** their cry because of their taskmasters, for I **know** their sorrows.

- The Lord has seen how the Devil manipulates you
- The Lord has heard your cry
- The Lord knows even the concerns that are not voiced
- Which dye are you immersed in?
- Will you cooperate with the Lord?

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

- You reason with God in your heart
- He is omniscient so you can't hide anything from Him
- God reasons that you have been reconciled to Him
- God sends forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart (Galatians 4:6)
- You become a child of God - righteous

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- Mankind wronged God
- We deserved punishment for our transgression
- God reconciled us to Himself through His Son
- God's humility demonstrates His unconditional love
- We are called to do the same

Matthew 5:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- Your brother has something against you
- It's an accusation regardless
- No harvest because you left your gift before the altar
- Reconciliation in humility keeps the accuser away
- Offer your gift and reap the harvest and strengthen the body like Paul

Acts 22:14-15 (NIV)

12 “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.

13 He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.

14 “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to **know** his will and to **see** the Righteous One and to **hear** words from his mouth.

15 You will be his **witness** to all people of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be **baptized** and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

Types of Baptism

- 1) Baptism into the body of Christ.
- 2) Baptism into water.
- 3) Baptism into the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Baptism into fire.

Baptism into the body of Christ - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

1) We are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

2) We are one body. We belong to the same body and have different functions.

1 Corinthians 12:15-20 (NIV)

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?

20 As it is, there are many parts, but **one body**.

3) Baptism into the body of Christ helps us recognize how much we need each other.

1 Corinthians 12:21 (NIV)

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”

4) When we are fully immersed (baptized) into the body there will be no trace of division.

1 Corinthians 12:21-25 (NIV)

21 It would be wrong for the eye to say to the hand, “I don’t need you,” and equally wrong if the head said to the foot, “I don’t need you.”

22 In fact, the weaker our parts, the more vital and essential they are.

23 The body parts we think are less honorable we treat with greater respect. And the body parts that need to be covered in public we treat with propriety and clothe them.

24 But some of our body parts don’t require as much attention. Instead, God has mingled the body parts together, giving greater honor to the “lesser” members who lacked it.

25 *He has done this intentionally* so that every member would look after the others with mutual concern, and so that there will be no division in the body.

5) Baptism into the body of Christ helps us live selfless lifestyles.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

26 In that way, whatever happens to one member happens to all. If one suffers, everyone suffers. If one is honored, everyone rejoices.

- Everybody has something, nobody has everything
- Diversity in the body is not just acceptable but essential
- Don't feel excluded because you don't have the gifts that others have
- Don't exclude anyone because you don't think that he/she is qualified
- God bestows honor on the less glamorous members of the body