

ARTICLE 10

We believe in water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

1. Ordinances of the Church

- a. Water baptism, the Lord's Supper, and feet washing are all ordinances of the church.**

Scripture references: Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24; John 13:5-17

- b. Ordinances are important because they are commanded by Christ and strengthen our faith.**

Scripture references: Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

2. Definition of Water Baptism

- a. Water baptism symbolizes death and resurrection.**

Scripture references: Matthew 3:16; Romans 6:1-14; Colossians 2:12

- b. Water baptism symbolizes forgiveness and cleansing from sin.**

Scripture references: Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:5; Acts 8:12; Romans 6:3-5

3. Three Baptisms: Conversion Baptism, Spirit Baptism, and Water Baptism

Conversion baptism—

Water baptism—

Baptism in the Spirit—

- a. ***Conversion baptism*** is the unique act of the Holy Spirit that occurs when a person becomes a follower of Christ, resulting in that person's being placed as a member of Christ's body, the universal church.

Scripture references: 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5

"Baptism *by* the Spirit" and "Baptism *in* the Spirit"—

"One" Baptism —

- b. ***Spirit baptism*** (baptism in the Holy Spirit) is directly related to the believer's being empowered by the Holy Spirit for witness and service.

Scripture references: Acts 2:38; 8:14-17; 10:44-48; 19:5-6

- c. ***Water baptism*** portrays a vital biblical truth—the identity of the believer with Christ's death, burial, and Resurrection.

Scripture references:

Baptism as an ordinance of Christ—Matthew 28:19

Administration of water baptism—Matthew 28:19

Conditions for water baptism—Acts 2:38; 18:8

Water baptism as a response to God—Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:1-11

Candidates for water baptism—Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 37

Baptism as a public testimony—Ephesians 5:26

- (1) **Baptism in water was instituted by Christ.**

- (2) **Baptism in water is to be administered "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

Father—

Son—

Holy Spirit—

- (3) **The conditions for baptism in water are the hearing of the Word of God, repentance from sin, and faith in Jesus Christ.**
- (4) **Baptism in water is a public response to the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer.**
- (5) **The proper candidates for baptism are those who have accepted Christ as their Savior.**
- (6) **Water baptism is a once in a lifetime public testimony of our conversion and our entry through repentance and faith into the Christian life.**

Discussion

Ordinances of the Church

- 1) What are the ordinances of the church? Why are they important?

Definition of Water Baptism

- 2) What is the meaning of the verb “baptize”?
- 3) What does immersion symbolize?

Three Baptisms: Conversion Baptism, Spirit Baptism, and Water Baptism

- 4) What are the three baptisms mentioned in the Bible? What is the significance of each?
- 5) What are the conditions for water baptism?

Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks to You for the divine ordinance of baptism. You have so graciously given us this sign as a reminder of Your love and work in our lives.

In our baptism we remember that You have washed away our sins and have united us with Christ. In our baptism we joyfully testify that we have died to sin and have received a new life through the death and Resurrection of our Lord. We thank You for redeeming us through the sacrifice of Christ.

Dear Father, we pray that you will give us the power through Your Holy Spirit, to be faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we always remain sensitive and obedient to Him.

Amen.

Resources for Additional Study

Barth, Karl. *Baptism as the Foundation of the Christian Life*. Translator: G. W. Bromiley. (Church Dogmatics, Vol. 4, Part 4) Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1969.

Carson, Alexander. *Baptism: Its Modes and Its Subjects*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1955?

Fiddes, Paul S., ed. *Reflections on the Water: Understanding God and the World Through the Baptism of Believers*. Oxford, England: Regent's Park College, 1996.

Shurden, Walter B., ed. *Baptism and the Lord's Supper*. Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys Pub., 1999.
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