

BAPTISM AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

I. What is it?

Baptism – To identify with, or associate with the message of the gospel, the person of Jesus Christ, and a group of believers (the Church)

»Purpose: Symbol of new conversion (Rom. 6:4)

Church – “An assembly of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and who are organized to carry out God’s will.” -Charles Ryrie

»Purpose: What do these verses say about the purpose of the Church?

Acts 2:42-47

Matthew 28:19-20

Ephesians 4:11, 12

II. Why do it?

Baptism –

1. Christ was baptized. (Matt 3:16)
2. Christ approved his disciples baptizing others. (John 4:1, 2)
3. Christ commanded it. (Matt. 28:19)
4. Early Church practiced it. (Acts 2:41; 8:35-36; 9:18; 10:47-48)
5. To publicly identify with Christ. (Acts 16:14-15, 33; Acts 2:41)

Church –

1. God purchased the Church with the blood of Christ. (Acts 20:28)
2. Christ instituted the Church and will make sure it succeeds.(Matt. 16:18)
3. Christ loves, nourishes and cherishes the Church. (Eph. 5:25, 29)
4. We are a part of the Church. (I Cor. 12:12-13)

III. How to do it?

Baptism –

Go talk to the pastor of your church about baptism.

Church –

1. Select and join a church where:
 - A) The Bible is taught clearly and accurately (Acts 2:42)
 - B) Jesus Christ is exalted as Savior and Lord (Col 1:28,29)
 - C) There is evidence of loving relationships by its membership.(Jn 13:35)
2. Give: Time - (Eph. 5:15)
Talent - (Eph. 4:12-16; 1 Cor. 12:7,11; Matt 25:14-30)
Treasure - (Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Cor. 16:2)

Suggested Memory verses: Baptism - Matt 28:19, Church - Acts 2:42