

6. Questions and encouragements

Q: Which of these three methods is right?! All of them.

Q: Doesn't "baptise" mean "to immerse"? No.

Why does this matter?

The word "baptise" can have other meanings:

- Mark 7:4, "they do not eat unless they baptise"
"baptisms... of dining couches"
- Hebrews 9:10, "various baptisms" in OT (but no OT rituals involving dipping)

We don't really know how baptisms in the NT actually happened

- Acts 8:38-39, "they both went down to the water... they came up out of the water."

A caution: the power of tradition – we are all shaped by it

Encouragement: have a big view of what the Lord signs and seals to you in your baptism

"Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's."

Westminster Shorter Catechism - Q94

2. How should baptism happen?

While waiting to begin...

1. Read the following passages
Colossians 2:11-12
Exodus 24:8
Revelation 22:1-2.
2. What do we learn about the Gospel? And about baptism?

1. With water

Ezekiel 36:25, "... clean water..."

Hebrews 10:22, "... pure water..."

Ordinary water, to which God gives a holy use

2. Into the Triune name

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Trinity:

Bearing a new name:

3. With the Word

Ephesians 5:26, “that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.”

4. In church

1 Cor. 12:13 – “For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.”

Where?

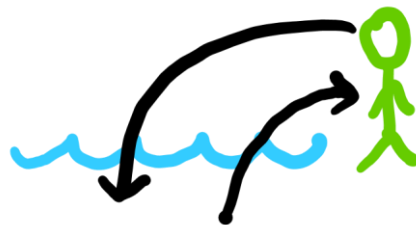
Who?

5. By dipping, or sprinkling, or pouring

(a) Dipping / immersion

→ sign of death and of resurrection life

Romans 6:3-4, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”



See also:

Colossians 2:12, Luke 12:50, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 1 Peter 3:20-21

(b) Sprinkling

→ a sign of being washed clean

Ezekiel 36:25 “I will sprinkle clean water on you and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart”

See also:

Hebrews 9:22, 1 John 1:7, Revelation 7:14



(c) Pouring

→ a sign of the Holy Spirit poured out

Acts 1:5; 2:17 “You will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh”.

See also:

Ezekiel 47:1-12, Romans 5:5, Revelation 22:1-5

