

The Lord Jesus gave two ordinances to edify His churches. We will look at the first which is baptism.

**Baptism** – The immersion of a disciple in water, in the name of the Triune God, upon his profession of faith, by a church of Jesus Christ.

**Key verse: Acts 2:41** “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

**Mark 1:9-10** “*And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus **came from Nazareth** of Galilee, and was baptized of John **in Jordan**. (v.10) **And straightway coming up out of the water**, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:” – The Lord Jesus traveled 60 miles (97 kilometers) to be baptized by God’s appointed/authorized agent: John the Baptist. The Lord Jesus was immersed or dipped in the water. The baptismal candidate is always brought to the waters, not the other way around. This is the one baptism that is mentioned in Eph. 4:5. Any deviation from this is non-Biblical.*

**Romans 6:4-5** “*Therefore we are **buried** with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (v.5) For if we have been **planted** together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his **resurrection**:” – The immersion symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and we identify with him and share in the same hope of a future resurrection. Does sprinkling or any other mode present this picture?*

**Luke 3:7-14** “*Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (v.8) **Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance**, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. (v.9) And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (v.10) And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? (v.11) He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. (v.12) Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? (v.13) And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. (v.14) And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.” – Disciples are the only candidates for baptism. Babies, and severely mentally handicapped persons are not qualified for believer’s baptism. Baptism doesn’t save. It is not a sacrament. It is a symbol. Notice: candidate must have already “**received his word**.” Here is where all man-made religions err. The Lord Jesus baptized none except disciples only (Jn. 4:1).*

**Matthew 28:19-20** “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (v.20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” – The only baptizing agency in the New Testament is the church.*

**1 Corinthians 12:13** “*For by one Spirit are we all **baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” – Baptism assimilates the disciple into the fellowship of the church.*