



Pastor's Update

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Baptism: The Initiatory Ordinance of the Church (Acts 2:38)

I. Introduction

The two ordinances of the Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism was ordained by Jesus after his resurrection (Matt. 28:19). An ordinance of the church is a practice or rite instituted by Christ and is to be held in perpetuity by the churches that bear His name. All Christian Churches practice the rite of Baptism. Jesus Himself was baptized (Matt. 3:16-19). He commanded the apostles to baptize others (Matt. 28:19). The apostle Paul was also baptized (Acts 9:18).

II. Definition of Baptism

Baptism is an act of faith and a testimony that one has been united with Christ in his death and resurrection and has experienced spiritual circumcision. It is a public indication of one's commitment and obedience to Christ. Baptism is the normal entry into the local church life (Acts 2:41).

III. The Subjects to be Baptized: Those who have come to faith in Christ.

- A. Day of Pentecost believers (Acts 2:41)
- B. The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:34-39)
- C. Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-48)
- D. Lydia and her household (Acts 16:11-15)
- E. The Philippian Jailer and his household (Acts 16:31-34)
- F. Crispus and his household (Acts 18:8)

IV. The Mode of Baptism

The mode in which baptism is to be administered is by immersion as the Greek word for baptism (baptizō) consistently indicates (Col. 2:12; Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48).

V. Baptism is Symbolic of:

- A. Union of Christ in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)
- B. Cleaning from sin (1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5)
- C. Union of Believers (Eph. 4:5)

"Baptism does not save a person, but the person who is saved must be baptized in obedience to command of Jesus Christ."

By God's Grace and for His glory,

Pr. Francis