

Theme: Jesus commands everyone who has believed in Him to be water baptized as part of being a disciple of Christ.

I. My Oath of Office As A Midshipmen

- A. July 6, 1979 - I took oath of office as a midshipmen
- B. A 9 year time in the military began with that oath
- C. Water baptism has some similarities - public statement at beginning of a journey
- D. What is baptism? Why do we baptize people?

II. Why We Should Be Water Baptized

- A. It was commanded by Christ
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19
 - 1. Jesus tells us we are to baptize and be baptized
 - 2. This should settle it!
- B. Water baptism is part of discipleship
Therefore go and make disciples **of all nations**, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:19–20
 - 1. We are commanded to make disciples - not just ‘converts’
 - 2. Water baptism in an intrinsic part of discipleship
 - 3. This is the doorway to discipleship

- 4. Discipleship - including water baptism - is for all nations/people groups
- 5. All disciples were to be baptized - no limits
- 6. All disciples were to obey all commands - including the command to be baptized

- C. The apostles and early church baptized believers
Peter replied, “Repent and **be baptized, every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ... ⁴¹ **Those who accepted his message were baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:38–39, 41
 - 1. Be baptized - every one of you
 - 2. Those who accepted the message were baptized
 - 3. Acts 8:12; 8:36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:14-16; 16:30-33; 18:8; 19:5
 - 4. Also mentioned & assumed in numerous epistles

III. What Is Water Baptism?

- A. Water baptism is a public acknowledgement of the authority of Jesus Christ
Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** ¹⁹ **Therefore go** and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18–20

1. Great commission predicated upon authority of Christ
 2. Water baptism is a public acknowledgement of Christ's authority
 3. Water baptism is beginning of a life of obedience to Christ, submitting to His authority
- B. Water baptism is a public profession of faith in Jesus
But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12
1. They believed - so they were baptized
 2. Always belief then baptism in NT - never reversed
 3. Early church baptisms - creed - I believe
- C. Water baptism is the cutting off and burial of the old man
In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:11–12
- Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3–4
1. Water baptism is not just a ceremony - it is a sacrament

2. It is a means of grace for believers
3. Our old man of sin is circumcised - cut off from us
4. Our old man of sin is buried with Christ - we are free
5. This is a powerful aid in our struggle against sin!

D. Water baptism is an immersion into Christ

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Romans 6:3

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:27

1. To be baptized is to be united with Christ
2. Believers who are baptized are placed into Christ
3. They are clothed with Christ
4. Believers who are baptized are immersed into Jesus!

E. Water baptism really is the door to discipleship!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Have you looked to Christ in faith?

1. This is the foundation and requirement for all else
2. Going into water apart from your own faith is meaningless before God
3. Look to Christ in faith today!
4. Then check water baptism on GetConnected card

B. Have you been water baptized as a believer?

1. This is commanded for all believers
2. If you have never been baptized AS A BELIEVER you need to be
3. Then check water baptism on GetConnected card

C. Parents - have your children been water baptized as believers?

1. First - have you been teaching the Gospel to your kids?
2. Have your kids responded to the Gospel?
3. Have your believing kids been water baptized?
4. Then check water baptism on GetConnected card

D. Water baptism service on March 9 - sign up today!

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18–20

Baptism

Matthew 28:18-20
February 16, 2014
Prayer
Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26