



Conversations that Matter:

Baptism - Baptizo [Acts 2:38]

Baptism does not . . .

- 1] Save us
- 2] Wash away our sins
- 3] Provide us special status with God

Baptism of the Holy Spirit - may be defined as that work where the Spirit of God places us, as believers, into union with Christ and into union with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. [gotquestions.org]

Water Baptism - baptism in the New Testament symbolizes resurrection and washing. The act of Baptism does not accomplish new life or spiritual cleansing, but it is an outward illustration of the inward reality.

When a person is placed under the water and then brought out again it visibly represents dying to the old life and being resurrected with Christ. At the same time, baptism is the public confession of identification with Christ in His death and resurrection (see Romans 6:3-4). [gotquestions.org]

Baptism is . . .

- 1] Commanded by Jesus [Matthew 28:19-20]
- 2] Identification with Christ [Galatians 3:27]
- 3] Testifying about our relationship with Jesus [Acts 2:38,41]

Discussion Questions

- [1] Read Romans 6:1-4. How does God want you to live in the reality of redemption? [Abide]
- [2] Read Galatians 3:27. Just as in water baptism a person is immersed in water, so when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, we are immersed in Jesus - Gudzik. How do these verses and Gudzik's statement impact you?
- [3] Read Acts 2:37-41. The practice of repentance is critical throughout the Scriptures and especially in the New Testament. To "repent" means not only to confess your sin but to turn away from that sin and walk toward God instead. Take time to pray right now, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas or patterns of behavior in which you need to repent. [LCSB]

■ **Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "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.

■ **Romans 6:3-4** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ 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.

■ **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

■ **Acts 2:41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three

"With this Ring"

Why do people wear wedding rings?

Do wedding rings make people married?

Is it possible to be married without wearing a ring?

Is it possible to wear a ring without being married?

A wedding ring is a symbol of marriage and baptism is a symbol of salvation. Just as a wedding ring does not make someone married, baptism doesn't make someone a Christian.

People wear wedding rings to demonstrate to others that they have already been married.

Similarly, Christians are baptized to demonstrate to others that they have already been saved. Just as someone could wear a wedding ring without being married, many people have been baptized, but never truly saved.

Conversely, just as someone can be married without wearing a ring, someone can be saved without being baptized.

[Foundations : Bible Truths for Christian Growth]