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It's Time to Take Your Stand

by Dr. David Foster

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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**, 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 NIV)

3 Errors About Baptism

Baptism is **essential** for salvation.

"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5 NLT)

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done**, so none of us can boast about it." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT)

Baptism is the **means** by which Grace is **dispensed or withheld**.

"I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) **For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel**—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power." (1 Corinthians 1:14-18 NIV)

Baptism is **institutional property**.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:19 NIV)

3 Reasons You Should Be Baptized

It Is A Matter Of **Believe-ability**.

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16 NIV)

It Is A Matter Of **Identity**.

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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." (Rom 6:3)

"...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." (Col 2:12)

It Is A Matter Of **Obedience**.

"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit**. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20 NLT)

When Should You Be Baptized?

First comes **belief**, which is an **inward reality**.

"...then immediately he and all his family were baptized." (Acts 16:33)

Second comes **repentance**, which is an **outward act**.

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.'" (Acts 2:38)

Third comes **baptism** which is a **public statement**

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." (Acts 2:41)