Baptism Video – Video

Intro: My wedding day July 2000 – I publicly declared my vows and love to Nadia, in the presence of God, friends and family and exchanged rings. Ring is the symbol of my marriage to me, us and strangers. A symbolic reminder of our marriage. Its something we can all understand as a symbol. Even if you're not married you have a pretty good idea of what is behind a wedding ring. The ring is pointing to a greater reality – marriage.

God Himself uses symbols throughout history to point people to a greater spiritual reality. He uses these visible symbols of invisible grace. NT – Jesus – 2 ordinances for the church : visible symbols of a invisible reality : baptism and communion (Lords Supper)

What is Baptism?

Its 4 spiritual realities:

1- A Declaration of the Gospel
2- An Identification with Christ's Death and Resurrection
3- An Illustration of the washing of sin and the new life in Christ
4- A Demonstration of public obedience to Christ

1. A Declaration of the Gospel – In those waters we are declaring the Gospel of JC. As we go down and are buried with Christ in our baptism we are signifying the death of Jesus and as we come out of the waters we are signifying the new life (resurrected life) of the believer – new creation in Christ
   1 Cor 15:3-4 [3] For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
   This baptism is a sign/symbol that points to this spiritual reality. That the Gospel of JC IS the Good News: lived, he dies and rose again and in Him we live, die and rise again. We are declaring to everyone – the Gospel is true and has changed my life.

2. An Identification with Christ's Death and Resurrection – As a believer being baptised Im stepping into those waters identifying with my Saviour ion His death, and resurrection

3. An Illustration of the washing of sin and the new life in Christ – As you go down your being washed in the water – coming out new.

4. A Demonstration of public obedience to Christ – Christ has called us to profess and proclaim His good name and THIS is the first step in obedience! Baptism! ……..So that's what it is.

What it is not:

It cannot save you!? That water only contains H2O and Chlorine – no magic!? My ring does not make me married to Nadia – it only points to the marriage that's already been set. Baptism is done in response to salvation. Good News! We are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone Eph 2:8-9

Its not necessary for salvation?! Its not a step you have to do or the final piece you have to complete to complete your salvation. Salvation is sure and steadfast in what He has done on your behalf. As you place your love, trust and faith in Him for your salvation THAT is when salvation is secure.

So then why should you be baptised? What is compelling me to do this?

The most compelling reason Matt 28:18-20

18 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."

To obey Christ! He commands His people to make a public stand and be baptized.

To display that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ – publicly declare your allegiance

Who gets baptised?

Who should be baptised? At ABC we believe it is for those who have professed faith in Christ

Act 2:41 "For those who received his word were baptized…" Acts 8:12 "As they believed Philip as he preached the Good News..they were baptized"

You see a consistent and clear pattern throughout the Bible – that baptism is in response to Salvation for believers. (Believers baptism) vs infant baptism

How should a person be baptised?

Matt 3:16 **16** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Immersion is the clear and consistent pattern in the Bible. Note: this is a open handed issue vs close handed.

Baptitzo – means to plunge, dip and immerse – used of clothing to be dyed

That how we do it. In and out is the best picture/symbolizing all the above.

We baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – Why? Matt 28:18-20

My ring is not the magic – but it reminds me of that day – who was there and what I did / the baptism is your milestone for more milestones.

Extra: Baptism Booklet