

THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM

(Acts 2:38)

- I. **Baptism is involved in making one a disciple of Jesus.**
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20.
 - b. We know this as the Great Commission of course.
 - c. The American Standard has “Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations”.
 - i. What is involved in making one a disciple?
 - ii. Jesus said that it was baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all the things Jesus taught.
 - d. If one wants to be a disciple, or follower of Jesus, he must be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and taught to observe all the things Jesus taught.
 - e. Baptism is a vital part of becoming a disciple of Jesus.
- II. **Baptism is involved in washing away our sins.**
 - a. When Ananias came to Saul he had a message for him.
 - b. Acts 22:16.
 - i. Notice that the message was to get up and to be baptized.
 - ii. The purpose of the baptism was to wash away the sins Saul had committed.
 - c. There is no other act or process mentioned in the New Testament whereby one’s sins are washed or removed.
 - d. The agent of the washing or removal of sins is the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5).
 - e. The act or process by which the blood of Christ washes away sins is baptism.
- III. **Baptism is involved in starting over.**
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:10.
 - b. When a person is in Christ, he or she becomes a new creature.
 - c. How does one get into Christ?
 - i. Galatians 3:27.
 - ii. Baptism places one into Christ, because we put on Christ when we are baptized.
 - d. Notice Romans 6:3-4.
 - i. Why were the Romans told to walk in newness of life?
 - ii. Because they had been baptized.
- IV. **Baptism is involved in one becoming a member of the church Jesus built.**
 - a. Division existed in the church at Corinth as we all hopefully know.
 - i. Paul wrote this letter, at least in part, to heal the division.
 - ii. So he reminded them of something (1 Corinthians 12:13).
 - iii. They had all been baptized into one body.
 - b. The one body into which they’d been baptized was the one church (Ephesians 1:22-23).

c. The Spirit taught them the necessity of baptism through the teaching and writing of Spirit-inspired men, such as Paul, and that by baptism, they were added to the one church.

d. This is very similar to Acts 2:41 + 47.

V. Baptism is involved in becoming a child of God.

a. 1 John 3:1.

i. There is a great deal in this verse.

ii. One of the things is that we get to be the children of God.

iii. This is in a spiritual sense, because all men are the creation of God, being made in His image.

b. The question is, How does one become a spiritual child of God?

i. Galatians 3:26-27.

ii. Baptism is how one becomes a spiritual child of God.