

Water Baptism Instructions

Explaining the need to new converts

Step of obedience to God: **Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The order/progression of salvation: Repent/be baptized

Going on record that you intend on living for Jesus & identify with a local church

This is a symbolic, but supernatural event: Something supernatural happens in people that get baptized

Luke 3:22 *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

Practical instructions to new converts

Testimony: Explaining why you are getting baptized

Brief: *What you were like before you were saved – what happened/what is the difference*

Cross your arms across your chest

Pre-Baptism explanation Generally read Romans 6:1-4

Romans 6:1-4 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Water baptism is a symbolic act of putting away the old life

These people have been saved, and are going on record that they want to live a new life in Jesus

Note: If the sermon before is on baptism – a pre-baptism explanation will be unnecessary

Practical considerations

Wise to have some dark t-shirts & shorts in case someone wants to get baptized/no extra clothes

Your wife/a lady ready with a towel to hand to the ladies

This is simply for the sake of modesty

Move the person facing the way they will exit the pool

Consider their height: Move them back so you don't hit their head

Lower them steadily (no whiplash)

Cover them fully (full immersion)

Recite the baptism formula just before/as you are lowering them

Upon profession of your faith, we now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The difference between Matt 28:19 and Acts 2:38

Matthew 28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

United Pentecostals/Apostolics are "Jesus Only" or 'Oneness' believers. This is the false doctrine that denies the Trinity. There is no Father/Holy Spirit; it's all Jesus – only. They use Acts 2:38 to 'prove' this. They say ¹: if you are baptized in the name of Father/Holy Spirit you are not saved ²: They believe baptism is salvation ³: They generally believe that you 'have' to get filled with the Holy Spirit when you are baptized – or you are not saved.

The difference between these 2 scriptures: **Acts 2:38** Peter is preaching to convince the Jews who Jesus is: You killed him/God raised him – so now repent and be baptized 'in the name of Jesus' – recognizing who Jesus is, and how salvation comes: Through Jesus Christ.

Matt 28:19 is the foundation or authority of our faith: Believing who God is (Trinity) so it forms a baptismal formula: We are baptizing someone into the Christian faith & relationship with a Triune God.