



BAPTISM
CLASS

WATER BAPTISM - GOD'S ORDINANCE

Matthew 28: 18-20 - 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."

Acts 2: 37-41 - When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Baptism Story

"I got it," called Steve as he rushed in the front door; "County Ordinance No. 135 on bicycle Riding and Licensing. What does 'County Ordinance' mean?"

"Just 'county rules,' or 'county law,' that's all," supplied Dad. "Laws that are made and enforced by the county ordinances. An ordinance is a law."

In church the next day, Steve heard the word "ordinance" again. The pastor was talking about water baptism. Steve has been wondering for some time if he should be baptized, too. When the pastor said, "Water baptism is an ordinance of the church," Steve's ear perked up. "I wonder why the church would make water baptism a rule?" He thought. He didn't wonder for long though, because Pastor was reading from the Bible, "GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST." Next Pastor was saying, "Water baptism is not just a rule of the church; it is also a command of God. Because water baptism is commanded by God, it has been made an ordinance, or rule, of the church."

After lunch that afternoon, Steve picked up his bicycle ordinance pamphlet again. "Listen to this, Mom," he said. "Always use hand signals to show your intentions to turn or to stop.' The drawings show how each signal should be given. I knew cars had to signal but I never thought about it for bicycles. I guess it's so other people will know which way you're going."

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Mom smiled. "That reminds me of this morning's sermon, Steve. After we accept Christ we need to be baptized in water to show people around us which way we're going. When a Christian goes down under the water he is showing himself and everyone watching that his old life is dead. He is demonstrating that his sins were completely removed when he became a Christian. When he comes up out of the water, the Christian is showing himself and the world that when his sins were taken away he became a new person, living a new life in Christ."

Dad nodded. "Since water baptism is a picture of having been saved, it doesn't make sense for someone to be baptized if he hasn't been saved, does it? Will water baptism make an unsaved person a Christian?"

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Dad nodded. "Since water baptism is a picture of having been saved, it doesn't make sense for someone to be baptized if he hasn't been saved, does it? Will water baptism make an unsaved person a Christian?"

Steve thought for a minute. "I don't see how it could. No, I know it couldn't because I remember what I learned in Sunday School about becoming a Christian. It's easy as A-B-C. 'You ASK for forgiveness for your sins, BELIEVE Jesus died to pay for your sins, and CONFESS Jesus as your Lord and Savior.'"

"Right," agreed Dad. "Water baptism can never save anyone, but it is a picture of what has already happened when a person was saved. Water baptism is one of the ways we confess Christ to others. It is a sign to the world that Christ is now your Lord and Savior."

Steve picked up his bike ordinance pamphlet. "Hey! I get it now! The hand signals aren't really turning - they're a picture of the turn I'm going to make."

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"Right again," encouraged Dad. "How does that compare to water baptism?"

"Water baptism isn't really dying to sin, and it isn't really having our sin washed away and it isn't living a new life either. It sure is a neat picture of all of those things thought, isn't it?"

"It shows which way you're going," added Mom.

"Water baptism really shows something else, too," added Dad. "Remember when Jesus died on the cross, was buried, then rose again?"

"I know!" said Steve. "Jesus died and was buried; that's going under the water. He rose from the dead; that's coming up out of the water!"

"Very good!" congratulated Dad. "Do you think you understand water baptism now?"

ADDITIONAL INFO:

BE TO CHURCH BY: _____ IF BEING BAPTIZED AT 922 OR _____ IF BEING BAPTIZED DURING 2ND SERVICE.

DO NOT FORGET TO BRING A TOWEL.

WEAR CLOTHES THAT WILL NOT BE SEE THROUGH ONCE WET.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE SERVICE AND TO THE BAPTISM RECEPTION HELD AFTER EACH SERVICE

BRING EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES

WATER BAPTISM INFO SHEET

CAMPUS: ERLANGER

SERVICE: 922 / 2ND SERVICE

DATE OF WATER BAPTISM: _____

SPECIFIC PASTOR REQUESTED: _____

SECOND PASTOR REQUESTED: _____

FULL NAME: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE : XS S M L XL XXL XXXL

HAVE YOU ATTENDED A WATER BAPTISM CLASS? Y/N

IF YES WHEN: _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES: