



WHAT BAPTISM MEANS



BAPTISM OR CHRISTENING IS AS SIGN (OR SACRAMENT) WHICH MARKS OUTWARDLY SOMETHING THAT IS TRUE INWARDLY.

IT CELEBRATES AND REMINDS THAT:

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO US.



IT SHOWS THE EVERLASTING COVENANT RELATIONSHIP GOD HAS WITH US: IT IS LIKE PUTTING ON NEW CLOTHES!

AS GOD'S CHILDREN WE ARE GIVEN A NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST, MADE RIGHT WITH GOD: "IN CHRIST JESUS YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH, FOR ALL OF YOU WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST **HAVE CLOTHED YOURSELVES WITH CHRIST.**" (GALATIANS 3: 26 - 27). SO THE WATER SYMBOLISES BEING COMPLETELY COVERED IN CHRIST.

IT REMINDS US WE ARE COMPLETELY FORGIVEN FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING: IT IS LIKE BEING WASHED!



GOD WANTS US TO BE REBORN SPIRITUALLY THROUGH THE "WASHING OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM HE POUED OUT ON US GENEROUSLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR. (TITUS 3:5-6). PETER WRITES THAT "BAPTISM THAT NOW SAVES YOU ALSO—NOT THE REMOVAL OF DIRT FROM THE BODY BUT **THE PLEDGE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD.**" (1 PETER 3:21)

THE WATER SYMBOLISES BEING WASHED CLEAN, IMMERSSED IN GOD'S PRESENCE, AND PASSING THROUGH THE WATERS OF BIRTH.



IT REMINDS US WE WILL LIVE FOREVER: IT IS LIKE BEING BURIED AND RISING AGAIN!

WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT OUR ETERNAL LIFE HAS ALREADY BEGUN: "**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." (ROMANS 6: 4). GOING INTO AND OUT OF THE WATER SYMBOLISES DYING AND RISING TO LIFE.

IT SHOWS US THAT WE ARE PART OF GOD'S CHURCH: IT IS LIKE A FAMILY CELEBRATION!



"FOR WE WERE **ALL BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT SO AS TO FORM ONE BODY**—WHETHER JEWS OR GENTILES, SLAVE OR FREE—AND WE WERE ALL GIVEN THE ONE SPIRIT TO DRINK." (1 CORINTHIANS 12: 13).



IT ALSO CELEBRATES AND REMINDS OF:

OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD.



IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

SOMETIMES AN ADULT INDIVIDUAL DECIDES TO BE BAPTISED. THIS PUTS THE EMPHASIS ON THE WHAT THE PERSON DOES IN COMMITTING TO GOD,

SOMETIMES PEOPLE DON'T DECIDE BUT ARE BAPTISED BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO A FAMILY OF DISCIPLES.

THIS EMPHASISES HOW GOD IS COMMITTED TO THE PERSON.

THIS IS WHY SOME CHURCHES



BAPTISE CHILDREN (BY CHRISTENING SO AS NOT TO DROWN THEM!)

AND SOME CHURCHES OFFER ADULT BAPTISM FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO BE BAPTISED AS THEY GROW IN THEIR DISCIPLESHIP – USUALLY BY FULLY IMMERSING THEM.



ADULTS WHO WERE BAPTISED AS CHILDREN

BUT THEN WANT TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CHOSEN ADULT FAITH, CAN HAVE A SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION. IN IT THEIR BAPTISM WORDS ARE REPEATED AND "CONFIRMED"..

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: 19-20)

