



DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

Lesson Number: Three

Theme: Water Baptism

Date: 2021

Introduction

The doctrine of baptism is one of the Christian core doctrines. Even though it is quite simple to grasp, it has also been one of the dividers of the Christian faith. Some believe that one can be baptized by both sprinkling and immersion and each of these are significant, whilst others believe in only baptism by immersion. Also, some are of the view that children should be baptized as a way of making them part of the church whilst others believe it is only when the child is old enough to receive Christ and has believed in Jesus that s/he is baptized.

In this study, we will consider this doctrine from the point of scripture and to apply them. In view of this, we will be reading a lot of scriptures to bring out the salient points about this doctrine.

What is Baptism

Baptism means immersion or submersion. The first time the concept of baptism is explicitly introduced in the Bible is through the ministry of John the Baptist. He baptized people in the Jordan River. (Matthew 3:6) The reason why water is used is because of its natural and spiritual significance. Water is a natural cleansing agent. In the Bible, water mostly signifies the word of God (John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26). As people were being baptized, they were confessing their sins. John's message was also called the baptism of repentance. (Luke 3:3, Acts 19:4). This therefore shows a link between baptism and repentance. Water baptism signifies cleansing and repentance.

Reasons for baptism

Read the following passages and state or mention the reasons for water baptism.

1. Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 1:1

2. John 4:1-2

3. Matthew 28:19-20

4. Mark 16:16

5. Hebrews 6:2

6. Romans 6:3-5

Who can be baptized?

Mark 16:16, Acts 8:35-36, Acts 16:31

How should baptism be done?

1. Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38-39

2. Colossians 2:12-13

3. 1 Peter 3:21

4. Matthew 28:19-20

5. Acts 8:38, 1 Corinthians 1:13-15

When must baptism be done?

Acts 8:35-36, Acts 10:44-47

Must one be baptized again?

Open discussion.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Does baptism save you?

Open discussion.

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

Conclusion

In conclusion, the gospels and the book of Acts are replete with proof that baptism is a necessary act for every believer. Just as new believers must be discipled and be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, they must also be baptized in the name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

Student Response

Have you been baptized? If not, what are you going to do about that and when will you implement that? _____