

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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PART 11: WATER BAPTISM

WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism is a divisive issue for some Christians.

The Roman Catholic Church, including the Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church, and Lutheran churches practice infant baptism, where a priest sprinkles water on the head of a baby.

Baptist and Pentecostal churches baptize older children and adults through immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

United Pentecostal churches insist that a person be baptized only in the name of Jesus.

Mormons practice a baptism for the dead, as well as baptism for new members through immersion.

Jehovah's Witnesses practice baptism through immersion.

WHERE DID WATER BAPTISM ORIGINATE

There are no references to water baptism in the Old Testament. It was John the Baptist that introduced water baptism by immersion to the Jewish people. **Matthew 3:1-6**

John practiced the baptism of repentance. **Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:1-4**

Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized; John wanted Jesus to baptize him instead, but Jesus insisted on fulfilling the Scriptures. **Matthew 3:13-17**

DID JESUS BAPTIZE PEOPLE?

The apostle John wrote that the followers of Jesus were baptized by the disciples, not by Jesus. **John 3: 22; 4:1-2**

All baptisms carried out by John and the disciples of Jesus were through immersion. No infants were ever baptized and only believers in the Messiah were baptized. **Acts 8:26-39**

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT WATER BAPTISM?

Did Jesus teach on the subject of water baptism? The only place in the New Testament where we have a written account of Jesus talking about this subject is the Great Commission. In reading the text, it is obvious that Jesus did not think water baptism was optional. It was a command to simply do it! **Matthew 28:18-20**

Jesus told the disciples that they were to baptize new converts in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.



WATER BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter preached his first sermon and 3,000 Jewish men repented and accepted Jesus as the Messiah. As a result, there was a mass baptism of all 3,000 men. **Acts 2:37-43**

When Saul of Tarsus had an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was not only born again but also baptized in water. **Acts 9:1-19**

WHAT ARE WE BAPTIZED INTO?

The different Catholic (Roman, Greek, Russian, Lutheran) churches teach that when a person is baptized in water, he is also baptized into the church. There are even some Baptist and Pentecostal churches that hold the doctrine that a person is baptized into the local church or a denomination. The apostle Paul makes it clear that we are baptized into Christ and Him alone. **Romans 6:3-4**

We are going to be resurrected just like Jesus. **verse 5**

We are crucified with Christ and should not continue to live in sin. **verse 6**

We are freed from sin since we are dead in the flesh. **verse 7**

By being dead to sin, we will live with Christ. **verse 8**

We have been set free from the law of death. **verses 9-10**

WHO IS YOUR MASTER?

Who is your master? That is the question Paul raises in the letter to the Romans. A Christian should not let sin reign in his life; instead, he is to live holy and set apart from the world of sin.

Should you sin because you are no longer under the law of death? Absolutely not!

If you yield to a sinful life, you have become a slave to sin. If we obey God's commandments, we are the slaves of Jesus.

Paul warns that the wages of sin is death. **verses 11-23**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?