



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
MERIDIANVILLE  
REAL. FAMILY.

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE  
BAPTIST  
FAITH &  
MESSAGE  
2000

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

**Baptism Article VII**



## Article VII

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.



## Article VII

It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

## Key Texts

Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, —All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

## Key Texts

Acts 2:41-42: Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

## Key Texts

Romans 6:3-5: Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection



## Key Texts

Colossians 2:12: buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.



# Major Theological Observations

**What is the difference between an —ordinance and a —sacrament?**

The BF&M identifies baptism as a church ordinance. Other Christian groups, such as Catholics and Presbyterians, prefer the term sacrament.

**A sacrament** is a ritual act that functions as a means of grace (Catholic) or a sign of grace (Presbyterian).

**An ordinance** is an act ordained or commanded by Christ

# Major Theological Observations

Number of Sacraments/Ordinances		
Roman Catholics (7)	Protestants: Minimalists (2)	Protestants: Maximalists (5)
Baptism Confirmation Penance Eucharist Marriage Extreme Unction - for the time of death Holy Orders - priesthood; ordination	Baptism Lord's Supper	Baptism Lord's Supper Foot Washing (Jn. 13) Marriage (Eph. 5) Prayers for the sick (Jas. 5)

# Major Theological Observations

What is the history of the term —baptize?

Baptize is an anglicized form of the Greek verb *baptizo*. Lit. “to dip” “plunge” or “immerse”.

*Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

# Major Theological Observations

## The Meaning of Baptism

*Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

*It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead*



# Major Theological Observations

## The Meaning of Baptism

- Symbolic vs Effectual / Credo vs. Paedo
  - Baptismal Regeneration (Catholic / Campbellite)
  - Baptism Saves (Lutheran)
  - Baptism as a sign or gift of the covenant (Presbyterian)

# Major Theological Observations

## The Mode of Baptism

Immersion symbolizes the meaning of baptism (death, burial and resurrection) in a way that sprinkling or pouring cannot convey.

New Testament describes baptism as occurring in watery depths.

John baptized at Aenon —because there was plenty of water there (John 3:23). At his baptism, Jesus —went up from the water (Matt. 3:16). When Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, they both —went down into the water (Acts 8:38).

# Major Theological Observations

## The Candidate of Baptism

### **Acts 2:38**

*"And Peter said to them, '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.'"*

### **Acts 10:47-48**

*"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."*

# Major Theological Observations

## The Candidate of Baptism

### 1 Peter 3:21

*"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*



# Major Theological Observations

## The Context of Baptism

By participation in baptism, a believer identifies with Christ and identifies with the people belonging to Christ, the Church. As a visible symbol of the community of faith, biblical baptism does not occur in the context of a family, home fellowship, or Bible study group. Baptism depicts the unity of the church (Eph. 4:5) as well as the union of the believer with the Body of Christ. Baptism is a community celebration and commitment.

# Major Theological Observations

## The Context of Baptism

- An ordinance Given to the Church to be observed by the Church.
- What about missionaries?
- What about exceptions?

# Major Theological Observations

## The Context of Baptism

*Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership*

- Baptism introduces you to the church and initiates your membership into the body of Christ.

# Major Theological Observations

## A personal and Pastoral Plea

A symbolic view of baptism should not diminish our understanding of its significance.

