

1. When the church baptizes a believer it is to proclaim and demonstrate visibly that he has been changed, made a new creature

#2937 κτίσις ktisis

= a creation, a thing made or established

#2537 καινός kainos

= new, recent, fresh

= of a new kind, unprecedented, previously unknown, unheard of

(2 Cor 5:17, 21)

2. This baptism into Christ effecting a real change is clearly illustrated in an ancient pickling recipe (see images PDF)

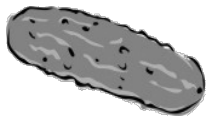
→ the born again one has been spiritually baptized = "baptizo" in the Holy Spirit

- he has been immersed into
- he has been united with
- he has been identified with

CHRIST

→ the change that has taken place is

- permanent
- irreversible



A "cucumber" has become a "pickle"!

3. Water baptism is not necessary for salvation

- some passages do at first glance seem to require it in order to be saved
- however the Bible does not teach this
- all that is required for salvation is true faith
- the Scripture makes clear that baptism with the Holy Spirit is salvation
- water baptism is simply its sign
- the thief on the cross was clearly saved although not baptized

(Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; 16:30-31; Gal 6:15; 1 Cor 1:14-17; Lk 23:42-43)

4. It is however vital for the church to baptize

- it is commanded by Jesus and the apostles
- it is a "re-enactment" of Holy Spirit baptism
- it illustrates dramatically the believer's death, burial and resurrection with Jesus
- it can be a believer's first opportunity to be a witness to the world (seen and unseen) of the forgiveness of his sins and the newness of his life

5. Baptism does not have to be carried out by an official (pastor or elder) of the church

- the Bible does not expressly address this
- but if the great commission is given to all Christians then all Christians have the authority to baptize

(Mt 28:19-20)

6. Because baptism is to be a sign and demonstration of salvation

- ONLY people who have been born again should be baptized
- since infants cannot believe or repent they should not be baptized

7. The church should aim to baptize people

- as soon as possible after their salvation
- as soon as possible after they become aware that baptism has been commanded

(Acts 8:12, 35-38; 9:17-19; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 30-33; 18:8)

8. Anyone baptized before salvation would have to be re-baptized upon believing

9. Because of the meaning of the word "baptism", immersion is the most logical way to baptize

- baptism by sprinkling or pouring would be an oxymoron, something self-contradictory



Water baptism is one of the ways the church regularly preaches and teaches the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ