



POTENTIAL CHURCH

# BAPTISM TRAINING MANUAL

# **BAPTISM IS FOR BELIEVERS, THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR.**

The Bible shows evidence that baptism is to always follow conversion, never before it, and while it paints a picture of salvation, it is not necessary for salvation. (Acts 2:41; 8:36-39) Baptism is Symbolic.

## **BAPTISM...**

### **• PAINTS A PICTURE.**

Baptism paints a picture of the “old us” (our old way of living prior to knowing and trusting Christ) dying and the “new us” (the new life we now have in Christ) being raised to life in Christ. Therefore, baptism paints a picture that our life/lifestyle reflects a heart devoted to Christ.

*(References: 2 Corinthians 5:17)*

### **• MAKES A STATEMENT.**

The act of baptism declares that we have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, and in doing so surrendered our lives to His authority. When we “put on our God Jersey” so to speak, we are making a statement to those around us that we represent Christ.

*(References: Acts 8:35-38, Colossians 2:11-12, Luke 3:3)*

### **• TELLS A STORY.**

Baptism tells our story, a story of being lost, but now being found in Christ. Being baptized does not indicate that we live in perfection, but in surrenderance of God’s will.

*(References: Romans 6:3-4)*

Baptism does not cleanse our sin, nor does baptism offer salvation or serve as a means to enter into an eternity in heaven. It is not a requirement for salvation. However, baptism is a very important requirement for obedience to the Lord. In Matthew 28:19, Christ commands, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. *(Matthew 28:19 NIV)* Therefore baptism is a form of obedience to Jesus as Lord. Baptism is a physical act that declares, “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

## **BAPTISM IS BY FULL IMMERSION (TOTAL BODY “DUNK”)**

The English word “baptize” comes from the Greek word—the language in which the New Testament originally was written—that means, “To dunk/dip, submerge, or immerse.”

John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River by immersion as Jesus began his public ministry. (*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11*).

Christ’s disciples in the New Testament baptized by immersion. (*Acts 8:36-39*).

Immersion is a means not only of declaring that Christ died, was buried and was resurrected to offer salvation to humanity, but also of testifying about our own hope of resurrection (*Romans 6:5*).

The New Testament teaches that immersion is a way to symbolize that a believer has died to an old way of living and is alive, walking in a new hope found in Christ. (*Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12*).

## **BAPTISM AND WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE TO CHRIST**

When someone accepts Christ as Lord and Savior, and surrenders their life to Him, they receive salvation, as well as the Holy Spirit. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring about a conviction of sin. Someone who has received Christ should have a conviction of the sin present in his or her life.

Willful disobedience is the revelation of sin, but continuing to live in a repetitive and nonrepentant sin. Being baptized while willfully disobeying God, or living in a repetitive and nonrepentant cycle of sin, would not be considered an authentic baptism because it paints a picture and makes a statement that is in direct contradiction of the Word of God. (*Hebrews 10:26-31; Colossians 2:11-12*)



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