



73 Twenty Ministries
BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

BAPTISM AND THE BELIEVER: A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF FAITH.

WHY BAPTISTS REQUIRE IMMERSION FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

73 TWENTY MINISTRIES

A TEACHING MINISTRY OF DR. ROBERT C CROWDER

73TWENTY MINISTRIES: CHARTING THE WORD, NAVIGATING FAITH

Rooted in a lifelong passion for teaching and guiding others in Biblical truth, 73Twenty Ministries is devoted to helping believers navigate the depths of Scripture with both clarity and conviction.

The name 73Twenty holds deep personal significance: it comes from my childhood home at 7320 Greenwood Boulevard in Denver, Colorado. It was here that the foundations of my faith, study, and service were first laid. With the majestic Rocky Mountains ever-present on my horizons, God's Word has been a constant guide and presence throughout my life. The logo of 73Twenty Ministries, with its three mountain peaks in gray, blue, and orange, symbolizes not only the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but also the unwavering foundation of Biblical truth upon which our faith is built.

For more than twenty years, I've served as a pastor, teacher, mentor, and author, committed to making Biblical truths accessible and applicable. Through sermons, Bible studies, books, articles, and other teaching resources, 73Twenty Ministries exists to equip believers, strengthen churches, and proclaim the Gospel. Our mission is both simple and profound: to chart the Word, guiding faith, and helping others anchor their lives in Scripture.

At 73Twenty Ministries, we believe that faithful Biblical study should engage the mind, transform the heart, and shape daily life. Whether through exegetical teaching, character studies, theological exploration, or practical application, every resource is crafted to deepen understanding, strengthen conviction, and encourage obedience to God's Word.

As a ministry grounded in a conservative Baptist, dispensationalist approach, we focus on Biblical exposition, doctrinal clarity, and practical discipleship. We uphold the belief that Scripture is the authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God, and it's our privilege to help others navigate its timeless truths.

I invite you to explore the resources at 73TwentyMinistries.com and join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and unwavering faith. Together, let's stand on the mountain of God's truths and proclaim His name to every generation.

For His glory alone,

Dr. Robert C. Crowder, Th.D.

Founder, 73Twenty Ministries

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Baptism: Its History, Purpose, and Biblical Mode

Baptism is a significant ordinance in the Baptist faith. As a Baptist church, Lakeview Baptist Church upholds believer's baptism by immersion as the biblical mode of baptism. This paper will examine the history, purpose, and methods of baptism, emphasizing the importance of immersion as the proper mode according to Scripture. It will clarify why baptism by immersion is a requirement for church membership at Lakeview Baptist Church.

THE HISTORY OF BAPTISM

Baptism has its roots in the Old Testament, where ritual washings were common among the Israelites as symbols of purification (Leviticus 16:4, Numbers 19:7). However, Christian baptism finds its direct precedent in the ministry of John the Baptist, who baptized believers as a sign of repentance and preparation for the coming Messiah (Matthew 3:1-6). John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, not because He needed repentance, but to set an example for His followers (Matthew 3:13-17).

In the early church, they administered baptism to all who professed faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 2:41 states, *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."* The New Testament connects baptism with personal faith and repentance (Acts 8:36-38, Acts 10:47-48).

As the centuries progressed, various modes of baptism emerged. By the third century, some churches began practicing affusion (pouring) and aspersion (sprinkling) out of convenience for those who were sick or near death. By the Middle Ages, infant baptism by sprinkling became dominant in many church traditions, notably Roman Catholicism and later some Protestant traditions. Groups such as the Anabaptists in the 16th century rejected infant baptism, affirming that only those who profess faith in Christ should be baptized. The Baptist movement followed in this tradition, holding that baptism is an ordinance for believers alone.

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

Baptism serves several key purposes in the Christian life:

Obedience to Christ's Command

Jesus commanded His followers to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism is an act of obedience and a public declaration of faith.

Identification with Christ

Romans 6:3-4 explains that baptism symbolizes the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. It signifies the believer's old life being buried and their new life in Christ.

Public Testimony of Faith

Baptism is an outward demonstration of an inward transformation. It publicly declares a person's commitment to follow Jesus.

Entrance into the Local Church

While baptism does not save a person, it is a prerequisite for church membership in Baptist churches. Acts 2:41 shows that those who were baptized were added to the early church.

THE MODE AND METHOD OF BAPTISM

As a Baptist church, Lakeview Baptist Church holds that **immersion** is the only biblical mode of baptism. The Greek word for baptism, *baptizō*, means "to dip, immerse, or submerge." That word describes the complete saturation of cloth in dye. Every biblical instance of baptism implies immersion:

- **Jesus' Baptism:** Mark 1:9-10 states that Jesus was baptized by John and "came up out of the water."
- **The Ethiopian Eunuch:** Acts 8:38-39 describes how Philip and the eunuch "went down into the water" and came "up out of the water."
- **John's Baptisms:** John 3:23 notes that John the Baptist baptized in a location with "much water," showing that immersion was necessary.

Immersion is the only mode that embodies the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:3-4). Sprinkling and pouring do not symbolize this biblical truth.

BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Lakeview Baptist Church requires all members to undergo baptism by immersion after salvation because it is the biblical method and an act of obedience to Christ. We do not intend this requirement to question the sincerity of those baptized by other methods, but to ensure our church remains faithful to biblical teaching.

If you were baptized as an infant or by sprinkling or pouring, we encourage you to prayerfully consider following Christ's example and command by undergoing baptism by immersion. It is not a re-baptism but an act of obedience in accordance with the New Testament pattern.

CONCLUSION

Baptism is far more than a religious tradition or a symbolic gesture—it is a biblical command, a public proclamation of personal faith, and a beautiful picture of our identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. From the clear teaching of Scripture to the historical practice of the early church, it is evident that baptism was always administered to believers and always by immersion. No other mode fully represents the gospel message we proclaim—that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for our salvation.

At Lakeview Baptist Church, we uphold baptism by immersion not as a barrier, but as a biblical standard. We do not require it to question the sincerity of someone's faith, but because we desire to honor Christ's example and follow His commands with clarity and consistency. Requiring immersion for membership ensures unity in doctrine and practice within the body, and it provides a shared foundation upon which new believers can grow in discipleship.

To those who were baptized as infants or by another method, we lovingly encourage you to consider what the Bible teaches. If you have come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, baptism by immersion is not a re-baptism—it is a step of obedience, a joyful testimony to your new life in Christ, and a public declaration that you now walk with Him.

If you have never followed the Lord in believer's baptism by immersion, we invite you to take this step. It is not the water that saves, but your obedience to Christ that brings joy, unity, and maturity in your walk with Him. Baptism is the outward sign of an inward transformation. Let it mark your identity with the body of Christ, your witness to the world, and your faithfulness to the One who saved you.

We stand ready to walk with you as you take this step of obedience—one that honors Christ, strengthens the Church, and glorifies the God who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

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