

**A BRIEF STUDY  
OF  
SALVATION  
AND  
BAPTISM**

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In the New Testament those who became followers of the Lord Jesus Christ participated in water baptism. This important practice was commanded by Jesus (Matthew 28:19), and through the centuries the church has baptized those who put their faith in Him. This study is intended for those who want to understand baptism and those preparing for baptism.

## 1. Baptism in the early church

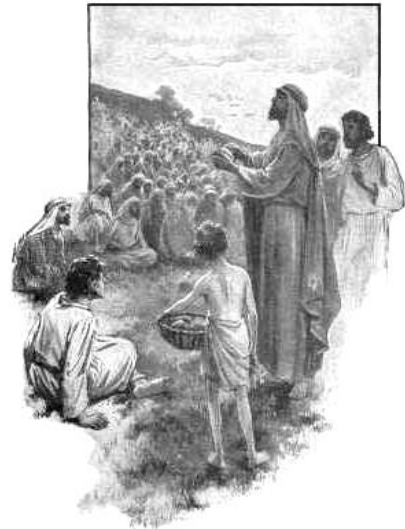
a. What happens in each of the following situations before the people involved are baptized?

Acts 2:36-41

Acts 8:5-13

Acts 8:30-40

Acts 9:1-19



b. The early believers took the command of Jesus to baptize seriously. According to Jesus, what are believers to do before they baptize a person, and who is it that should be baptized (Matthew 28:19)?

## 2. Baptism and Salvation

a. From the previous passages it is clear that a person hears the good news about salvation through faith in Jesus and makes the decision to become a follower of Jesus (a disciple is one who follows someone specifically to learn from him), and then they are baptized. Can a person be forgiven for sin and go to heaven without being baptized (see Luke 23:39-43)?

b. According to John 3:16, what is necessary for one to be kept from perishing and to have eternal life?



c. Read the description of the relationships and practice between believers in Acts 2:42-47.

This gathering of believers in Jerusalem was the beginnings of what would now be called a local church. What values and characteristics would describe their relationships?

d. In I Corinthians 12:12-27 the church is described as Christ's body, using the word picture of the human body and the way its parts work together.

What are some of the things said about the parts of the body that are true of believers who are "parts" of Christ's body, the church?

### 3. How we baptize

Believer's baptism is baptism in water of those who have come to faith in Jesus, and local churches have carried out baptism in a variety of ways through the centuries. At Damascus Community Church we practice baptism by immersion in water for a couple of reasons:

a. Read again Acts 8:36-39, perhaps the Scripture passage that gives best the sense of how baptism took place in the early days of the Church.

How does it seem to have taken place in this story?



b. Read Romans 6:1-4. What is the word picture used in verses 3-4 to describe the salvation experience (called here being “baptized into Christ Jesus”)?

How can baptism by immersion (putting someone down under the water, bringing them up out of the water) provide a visual image of this word picture?

c. What questions do you have about our practice of baptism, or what will happen when you are baptized?



#### 4. The meaning of water baptism

a. Read Mark 1:1-4. In the day Jesus lived baptism was a public demonstration of identification with a teacher or his message, such as acceptance of the message of repentance preached by John.

How is water baptism as commanded in Matthew 28:19, and as practiced by the church today like this, and what is its significance?

b. What does Acts 2:41,42 say happened next, after a person accepted the message about Jesus and was baptized?

What do you think this means?

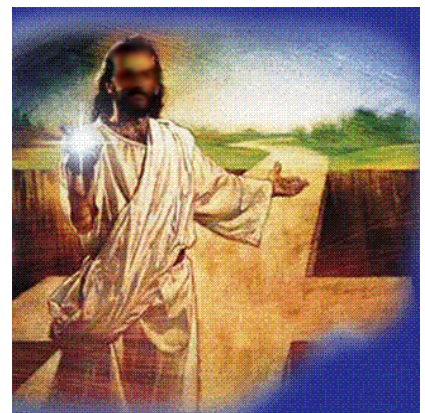


c. Have you come to believe in Jesus? If so, please explain briefly how you came to this point of believing in Him. Please note significant verses or passages of Scripture that led you to understand the good news about Jesus and believe.

d. If you have not come yet to the place of belief in Jesus, what questions do you have about being forgiven for sin and receiving the gift of eternal life?

## SUMMARY

1. Water baptism is commanded by Jesus for those who have come to believe in Him, or put their faith in Him, and have chosen to follow Jesus to learn from Him (become a disciple of Jesus).
2. Salvation comes by believing in Jesus and is not the result of baptism. Baptism is the public demonstration that one has chosen to follow Jesus.
3. At DCC we baptize by immersing a person who has become a believer in water, as a way of identifying themselves as a follower of Jesus, and as a picture of their death, burial, and resurrection to new life in Jesus.
4. Baptism in obedience to the command of Jesus is a public declaration of the believer's faith, and a first step of entering into the life of the body of Christ, the church. The believer then becomes involved in the shared life of the community of believers, a local church.





## **Baptism Candidate**

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Meet in Prayer Room at \_\_\_\_\_

Be prepared to share your testimony.

What to bring:

- a. Men wear wash and wear slacks or shorts and a short sleeve shirt.
- b. Women wear wash and wear slacks or shorts and a COLORED top.
- c. Towel and hair dryer.
- d. Personal items.
- e. Change of dry clothes.

If you have any questions please call:

(DCC Counselor) \_\_\_\_\_

at (phone ) \_\_\_\_\_



## **Baptism**

Please complete this form and bring it with you when you begin your counseling. Thank you.

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                    (month)                      (day)                      (year)

What is the most meaningful scripture verse in your salvation experience?

Testimony of my conversion experience (use back of sheet if necessary):









## **YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST**

The most critical needs that all of us have are met in Christ when we believe in Him. They are life itself, identity, acceptance, security and significance. Listed below are some scriptural promises about who you are in Christ that will encourage you.

### **I AM ACCEPTED**

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been made right with God.
Colossians 1:14	I have been forgiven of all my sins.
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ.

### **I AM SECURE**

Romans 8:1-2	I am free from condemnation.
Romans 8:35-38	I cannot be separated from God's love.
Philippians 1:6	I am sure what God started in me He will complete.
II Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power.

### **I AM SIGNIFICANT**

Matthew 5:13	I am the salt and light of the earth.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
II Corinthians 5:18	I am a minister of reconciliation.
II Corinthians 6:1	I am God's co-worker.



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### **Our Mission**

To call people to follow Jesus and become like Him

### **Our Vision**

A Growing Community for Christ:  
Walking in truth, Living out love, Building on faith