



✧ Baptized into Christ ✧

Baptism is the sign and seal of entrance into the Covenant Community. We take it lightly in the West, but Muslim-background believers know it is the line of demarcation (and in some cases, death -- where conversion is outlawed).

JEWISH ROOTS (MIKVEH)

Long before John the Baptizer came on the scene, Jewish Rabbis had practiced ritual washing for the converting Gentile. This had come out of the purifications required in the Law (Leviticus 11-16). Fonts shaped like this Catholic one are found all over Israel from the Second Temple

Period. John was unique in requiring the ritual of adult Jews and in

attributing a once-and-for-all character to it. To this day, the more orthodox the Judaism, the more cleansing they require.

John's movement was part of a larger trend which has continued, providing continuity.

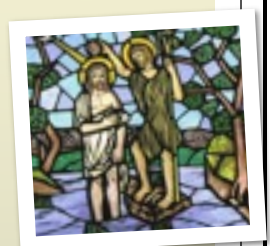


What about Jesus' Baptism by John?

Why would Jesus need to "fulfill all righteousness?" Doesn't baptism wash away sins?

Christ used all the sacraments of both the Old and the New Testaments. But those Covenants weren't for him: they were **by** Him! The Covenant of Redemption -- the intra-trinitarian covenant before the world began -- explains what

meaning those rituals had for Jesus. His agreement was to **fulfill** the Law and **be** the Substitute for the elect.





Baptism Should Unite the Body

Instead, it has often divided. We must acknowledge that, though we are persuaded,

others may not be. No one should be excluded for refusing to disobey conscience.

ONE
BAPTISM

THREE
FORMS
Immersion,
Pouring and
Sprinkling

TWO
PEOPLES
Children of
Believers, and
Adult Converts

ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM
- Ephesians 4



IMMERSION

This is the most obvious meaning, taken from the Greek word βάπτισμα. While this is the etymology of the word, it was clearly used with a broader array of meanings, even before the first century.



POURING

Taken from Acts 2, pouring is another acceptable form of baptism. This passage quotes the prophecy of Joel, which says God will



pour forth His Spirit on all Nations. Hence, baptism also symbolizing the anointing all Christians receive. (Hence our name, “little, christened ones”).

SPRINKLING

This one requires the most awareness of Old Testament continuity. Hebrews 12 and 1 Peter 1 help form the picture. As our High Priest, Christ has dipped his finger in his own blood and sprinkles us for a clean conscience. Baptism combines both Levitical washing and Abrahamic circumcision as initiation and cleansing

