

1

WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

1) JESUS COMMANDED US TO DO IT:

the point is that baptism is not a human invention or innovation; it is a command of the Risen Jesus to those who seek to follow Him. This is made clear in the gospel reference.

Jesus has the right to command:

as the Son of God, Jesus is not exceeding His authority in commanding baptism; obedience is not only a legitimate response, but a fully appropriate one.

2) IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Baptism is part of the relationship between you and God and without a relationship with God we do not share eternal life with God. Baptism is a mark of the side we are on.

3) BAPTISM RELATES US TO GOD:

faith and baptism go together; we are baptised into Christ and become part of His family. This makes us sons and daughters of God through Christ and through faith in Him. We are so closely related to God that we can use the familiar name of "Abba" when talking to Our Father.

4) BAPTISM RELATES US TO ONE ANOTHER:

we may be baptised one by one, but we all end up in the same body, members of the same family and so have a common identity and purpose in Christ.

5) BAPTISM IS NOT ABOUT KEEPING UP APPEARANCES BUT ABOUT A PERSON BEING IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

It is not a question of looking good, but of **being good**; we are not concerned about what other people think, or whether we're impressing the church or the bishop, or whether this is "the right thing to do".

Baptism is about sharing something that is deeply significant to us (a living and vital relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit) with the child that we love so much that we want to share the very best of our life with her/him.

In our own baptism we entered an intimate relationship of love with God, and we long for our child to share in this profound new way of living in close fellowship with God.

6) YOU CAN'T SHARE A RELATIONSHIP YOU DON'T HAVE YOURSELF:

This is pretty obvious. If you cannot do maths, you will not be able to help somebody else with maths. If you do not know God through Jesus, you will not be able to show others how to have a meaningful relationship with God. If we love God, we will live out what God tells us.

7) BAPTISM IS ABOUT GOOD NEWS:

It is about accepting the offer of Jesus of being related to God through Him and all the extras that come with that:

- a)** We are in a new relationship with God;
- b)** God writes off our sins and forgets them;
- c)** this new life starts now and never ends;
- d)** we start to live in *shalom* (peace) with God.

8) BAPTISM IS LIFE-CHANGING:

Baptism is the result of repentance (on the part of the adult believer to be baptised or on the part of those who bring a child for baptism).

The Greek word underlying this has a sense of turning from one direction to go in the opposite direction. In other words, it describes a full turn-around of life-style, values, and standards so that all of these in our lives now reflect those of Jesus.