

**Lies We Believe**  
**Part Four – Baptism is Nothing More than a Sign**  
**Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)**

**Sermon Summary:** The final message in this series studies the controversial topic of baptism. Many churches have differing opinions on the subject of baptism yet who is right and who is wrong. The answer can only be found by taking Scripture at face value and observing the life, actions, and teachings of Jesus Christ. Does baptism make us more Christ-like or less Christ-like is the ultimate question on this subject because it is only through Christ that we will enter into eternity! Study the Scriptures and leave behind your traditions and witness the truth.

**Big Idea – In order to be more Christ-like  
then Your Funeral Must Become Your Wedding**

**Three Points as to How Baptism Makes Us More Christ-Like**

**Point #1 – He Did It**

- We see the example of Jesus Christ as He sets for us the truth behind the essential nature of baptism with regard to salvation & a Christ-like nature.
- **Matthew 3:13-16**
- **Key Point** – The first key point that we examine gives us the ultimate authority in Biblical examples of Baptism. We see that ultimately when we have debate on the subject of baptism, we must come back to Jesus to clear up the debate. It is in this example given to us in Matthew 3 that Jesus sets the standard as to why we are to be baptized. He literally declares that He was not baptized just because it was a good thing to do but because it was to fulfill righteousness in His life fully human side of life. We cannot enter into Heaven unless we become righteous and clothe ourselves with Christ as explained in Galatians 3:27.

**Point #2 – He Commands It**

- We see Christ command that we baptize others in the name of the Lord.
- **Mark 16:16**
- **Matthew 28:19**
- **Key Point** – The second key point that we examine gives us the ultimate command in of Baptism. It is in these words that in both Mark as well as in Matthew that we the Savior himself command baptism to be done. Why does He command it? Because it is essential to become Christ-like. We ultimately are called to baptize people and be baptized ourselves because we are commanded to do this by example and by the authority of heaven itself. When we look at the words in Matthew 28 we understand that we are to baptize people and be baptized “*in the name of*” the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This literally means by the authority of God himself.

**Point #3 – He Defines Us Through It**

- **Galatians 3:27**
- **Romans 6:4-11**
- **Key Point** – The final key point that we examine gives us the ultimate reason why we are to be baptized. We come to the point of this understanding that baptism literally identifies us as being a child of God because we are united with Christ at this point in His death, burial, and

resurrection (Romans 6). We also see in Galatians 3:27 that we are baptized *into* Christ and then clothed with Christ. Christ literally identifies us through baptism.

### Questions to Consider

- *Why is baptism so controversial among Christians today?*
- *What does Jesus say about the importance of baptism? Explain.*

### Memory Verse

**Mark 16:16 (NIV)** – Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

### Challenge

**The Baptism Challenge** – The issue of baptism does not have to be a highly debated topic among Christians when you truly study the Scriptures. If you would like to know more about the Biblical definition of baptism then take the Baptism Challenge Booklet that we have provided with this sermon and learn the truth about baptism.

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