

Crossing the Red Sea: Believer's Baptism

Scripture Passages: Acts 8:26-39, Romans 6:1-5, 1 Cor 10:1-7, Exodus 14

1. “Baptists” feel that Baptism is an area of doctrine they have got right. Yet they do not always follow the pattern of scripture as they often make people wait until they have proved they are genuine. (See Paul – Acts 9, Philippian jailer Acts 16, Ethiopian Acts 8). Biblical baptism occurred on the day the person accepted Christ. **Discuss.**
2. In biblical times many baptisms took place in a public places and were a public declaration. Is your preference for this to be undertaken in the river, the lake or the church building?
3. The Example of crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14) 1 Cor 10:1-3, 6. Water baptism is intended to separate the believer from the world and the world’s control over our life. Jesus desires that we leave our old life, our old habits and associations and come up out of the water into a new land, new laws and a new leader. **Can you see any problems with this analogy?**
4. Satan like Pharaoh likes to follow after new Christians and bring them back under his bondage. By baptism in water and the Holy Spirit it is God’s intension that we should be cut off and delivered from the association and control of this world; and that the way back into the old life should be closed behind us. **Have you observed that “baptised Christians” are more likely to continue in their faith and remain firm?**
5. Romans 6:1-7 symbolises our old life dying, being buried and coming up out of the grave, risen to a new life in Christ (a funeral of our old self; our old nature). Many Christians, battle with their carnal nature and struggle to get victory over it. **Was this teaching mentioned when you were prepared for baptism?**
6. In Brian Archer’s book “If you care to accept it,” Papuan tribal people said “You can do what you like except baptise them. We have seen that this baptism cuts them off from our traditional spirits and ways.” “Our baptism by an act of obedience to God’s word causes a barrier to be built between us and the powers that Satan had over us to do what he liked with us.” **What influences and activities in our lives and society could baptism help us break free from.**
7. “Where people understood baptism as a burial and resurrection scene; if just before we put them under the water they asked God to show them specific areas that they needed to consciously bury along with the old nature in general; then the baptism of the Holy Spirit either became automatic on coming up out of the water, or was received without any problems when Christians laid hands upon them.” **If you were to be baptised what things would you like to bury?**
8. “Believer’s baptism isn't necessary for salvation, but it is necessary for obedience. Obedience is necessary if you are going to experience joy and grow in fruitfulness in the Christian life.” **Do you agree?**
9. Have you been baptised? Why not? If you have been baptised yet are still struggling in certain areas, get your group to pray with you.