

- E) It is not uncommon for people who have been baptized as infants to wonder if they should be "re-baptized" as true believers. Without being pejorative toward paedobaptism, we encourage one-time believers baptism, no matter your previous infant experiences.

## 5) Key Practices Of A Disciple's Life

- A) Jesus Christ calls His disciples (then and now) to two key discipleship practices. The first is a one-time believers baptism which "corresponds" (Colossians 2:9-12) with the Old Testament practice of circumcision (identity and membership with God's chosen people).
- B) The second key practice is communion, designed as a regular encouragement for a disciple to live life in "remembrance of Jesus Christ." This practice corresponds with the Old Testament observance of Passover (sacrificial lamb, focus on God's deliverance of Israel -- Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 26:17; John 13:1).
- C) Before we make disciples of others, we should follow Christ in our own practice of being disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

connections

**Long Beach Alliance Church**  
information • prayer requests • comments

We're glad you're here! If you are new to Long Beach Alliance Church bring this card to the 'connections table' in the lobby after the AM service. Or, use this card to update your address, request information, or ask for prayer. Just drop it in any offering bag or hand it to an usher in the lobby.

today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am new to Long Beach Alliance

☐ I have a prayer request

☐ I am changing my personal information

I would like information about...

☐ becoming a Christian

☐ my next steps, now that I'm a Christian

☐ getting involved/volunteering

☐ joining a men's/women's small group

☒ baptism

☐ membership

Reaching our community with the Great News of Jesus Christ and helping each other becoming fully developed followers of Jesus Christ!

junior high    jr. high    sr. high    college    adult

comments / prayer requests \_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

name (first & last) \_\_\_\_\_

spouse (if he/she attended with you) \_\_\_\_\_

home phone # \_\_\_\_\_

cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

home address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

this is a private prayer request — ☐ CONFIDENTIAL

Interested in being baptized? Check this box on the "Connections Card" and fill in your personal information on the back. Give the card to any pastor, elder, or usher. You will be contacted about our April 1<sup>st</sup> baptism opportunity right away!

# Total Immersion

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**FOR IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS OF DEITY  
DWELLS IN BODILY FORM, AND IN HIM  
YOU HAVE BEEN MADE COMPLETE, AND  
HE IS THE HEAD OVER ALL RULE AND  
AUTHORITY; AND IN HIM YOU WERE ALSO  
CIRCUMCISED WITH A CIRCUMCISION  
MADE WITHOUT HANDS, IN THE REMOVAL  
OF THE BODY OF THE FLESH BY THE  
CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST; HAVING BEEN  
BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM, IN WHICH  
YOU WERE ALSO RAISED UP WITH HIM  
THROUGH FAITH IN THE WORKING OF  
GOD, WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.**

**~COLOSSIANS 2:9-12 (NASB)**

## 1) Key Ingredients Of The Great Commission

- A) Immediately prior to Jesus Christ's ascension (Luke 24:51 & Acts 9:1-11), He called His followers to "go and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matthew 28:18-20).
- B) One of the critical ingredients of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is being baptized. Baptism was understood as the "initiation" of a person into the family of God (Acts 2:38, 8:13). Baptism (in the Bible) is the beginning.

## 2) Does The Bible Teach "Baptismal Salvation?"

- A) In modern 21<sup>st</sup>-century terms, when we want to know if someone is a follower of Jesus Christ, we ask them (something like), "when did you receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?"
- B) But is "praying THE prayer" how a person is saved? Absolutely not! The Bible teaches that salvation is a gift from God which is given to a person. There is nothing any person can "do" to earn/merit/accomplish their own salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- C) In clearer terms, when we ask a person when they "received" Jesus, we are asking them "when did you receive the gift?" The prayer follows the gift, it is a response to the gift, it is the thing we do to confirm a moment in time when we "accepted" the gift of Jesus from God.
- D) Salvation was often associated with immediate baptism in the Newer Testament (Acts 2:38, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21). For the early church community, baptism was "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace" (Augustine).
- E) In other words, baptism was (and is) the outward and public sign of receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism itself does not save, however, only the saved should be baptized to publicly proclaim faith in Christ.

## 3) Can A Person Be Saved And Not Be Baptized?

- A) Yes! The man who was crucified on the cross was never baptized, but was clearly saved (Luke 23:39-43)! Baptism is not necessary for salvation.

- B) However, Jesus Christ was baptized to identify with mankind (despite His sinlessness), and provide an example for all followers of Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:13-17).
- C) To sum up, you do not have to be baptized to be saved. However, unless you are hanging on a cross (death bed conversion experience), you should be baptized!

## 4) What If I Was Baptized As An Infant?

- A) There are several traditions where baptizing infants (paedobaptism) is a normal practice (e.g. Catholicism, Presbyterian/Reformed churches, etc.). While there is no direct command in Scripture to baptize infants, there is also nothing which prohibits baptizing infants.
- B) There is indication in Scripture that infants were baptized (Acts 16:15, 33) when their parent(s) responded to salvation. This shouldn't be understood as non-believers being baptized, but as the whole family coming to faith.
- C) When an infant is baptized, the tradition which does the baptizing is usually emphasizing God's choosing accomplished "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). Thus, infants are baptized as a commitment of the church to nurture the faith of the child and to include the child in the covenant community.
- D) Since the clear teaching of Scripture is directed at "believer's baptism," we will only baptize those who can articulate their response to God's gift of Jesus Christ in their life. We choose to observe "infant dedication" rather than paedobaptism.