

Day 1 - Jesus' Baptism

Section 7 of *The Baptist Faith and Message* deals with the two ordinances of the church, which are baptism and the Lord's Supper. It says this regarding baptism: "Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper."

Read *Matthew 3:1-17*.

The first 11 verses of this chapter tell us the purpose of the baptism that John was performing.

- According to these verses (especially verses 2, 6, and 11), why was John baptizing people?
- How did John initially react to Jesus' desire to be baptized?
- Why do you think John reacted this way?
- What reason did Jesus give in verse 15 for his desire to be baptized?
- Look at verses 16 and 17 and list everything that happens as a result of Jesus' baptism.

This is one of the clearest pictures of the Trinity that we have in scripture.

- How do we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working in unity in this passage?

Just as Jesus didn't get baptized to be made righteous but to "fulfill all righteousness," it is imperative that followers of Christ should be baptized, not to be made righteous but to evidence that we have been made righteous.