

Why is it fitting that *one baptism* follows *one holy Christian and apostolic church*?

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***one baptism***

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*  
(Ephesians 4:3-6)

Why do you think it is emphasized that there is *one baptism*?

How do *one Lord, one faith, one baptism* all fit together?

Baptism is Christian. Its importance is stressed by Jesus Christ.

*Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."* (John 3:3-6)

According to Jesus, what makes baptism necessary?

According to Jesus, what does baptism do? How does it do that?

Baptism is Christian. It is a part of the mission given by Jesus Christ.

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* (Matthew 28:18-20)

What two things did Jesus tell us to do in connection with making disciples?

How do we do these two things in our mission as a church?

Baptism is apostolic. It was carried out by the apostles of Jesus Christ.

*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:37-39,41).*

What was the purpose of being baptized?

What is *the promise*? Who is it for?

*The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in the house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and his family were baptized. (Acts 16:29-33).*

Baptism is apostolic. Jesus' apostles taught what baptism is and what it does.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:25-27)*

In this passage you have Christ's motive, his method, and his means. Explain.

This passage gives a nice definition for baptism. What is it?

*At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ*

*our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:3-7)*

How does Paul describe the natural human condition?

*He saved us.* What qualities of God were behind his doing that?

*He saved us.* What was the means he used to do that?

List the results of being baptized in these verses.

*This [water of the flood at Noah's time] symbolizes baptism that now saves you also, not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 3:21)*

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On Pentecost the apostle Peter told the crowds, "Be baptized for the forgiveness of sins."

In the 300's the Nicene Creed stated, "We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins."

In the 1500's the Augsburg Confession stated, "It is taught among us that baptism is necessary and that grace is offered through it."

In our current baptism service, after we baptize a person in the name of the triune God, we state, "The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins."

What thanksgivings might you offer to God every time you confess baptism in the creed?