

Baptism Part 2: Meaning and Mode

I. The Meaning of Baptism

1. A sign of repentance and faith (Acts 2:27–48)
2. A sign of our union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–4; Col. 2:11–12)
3. A sign of cleansing and forgiveness (Acts 22:13–16; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21)
4. A sign that the kingdom has dawned and the last days are here

II. The Mode of Baptism (Why Immersion is the Most Proper Mode)

1. While it is true that the Greek verb βαπτίζω can also mean “to wash,” its most common meaning is “to immerse.”
2. Contextual clues in the Gospels and Acts point to immersion as the mode of baptism.
3. The symbolism involved in Romans 6 and Colossians 2 points to immersion.
4. The witness of church history points to immersion as the earliest practice.