

Biblical Discipleship

Lesson 5 – Discipleship Involves the Trinity

Following Christ is faith in action, living as a new creation resulting from spiritual rebirth by the Holy Spirit (2Co 5:17; Tit 3:5-6; 1Pe 1:3). Therefore, reproducing Christ in others is Jesus' authoritative work for every believer as His ambassadors. *God making his appeal through us* (2Co 5:20), this is NOT optional, we are to "Go".

Text: Matthew 28:19b

...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

- ~ This is water baptism (Immersion under water), as spiritual baptism is only done by the Holy Spirit at salvation (Rom 6:1-6).
- ~ Baptism forms a picture of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit's active involvement in a disciple's life. A new believer needs to accept and submit to the controlling power of God in this truth.
- ~ Baptism is a public testimony of identity with God through faith in Jesus Christ, enabled by the Holy Spirit.
- ~ Baptism is a submissive act of obedience following salvation, telling the world of union with Jesus'

death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism tells the world that *just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life* (Rom 6:4). Jesus' resurrected life is to be lived through the believer's life.

- ~ This public testimony of baptism is the testimony of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through both the one being baptised and the Church members doing the baptising.
- ~ To refuse baptism is an act of disobedience. So, baptism is a critical part of making obedient disciples who will follow Jesus at any cost. Obedience is one of the primary marks of a true believer (Jn 3:36).
- ~ In baptism, the new disciple is acknowledging that baptism is NOT making them a Christian. *Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned* (Mark 16:16). Disbelief, not failure to be baptised, is what makes salvation impossible. Salvation is by faith, confessing the resurrected Lord Jesus (Rom 10:9-10).

In Jesus' great commission of Matthew 28:19-20, He commands believers to obediently go in His place, to make new disciples who begin with water baptism by immersion following their salvation.