Prerequisite, Practice and Proclamation of Water Baptism

Scripture: Acts 8:36-40

Introduction

Jesus commanded water baptism as a ritual symbolizing the death of the old self and the birth of a new life in Him, the Church has practiced it: believers have died, families have been broken because of it. Water baptism is the definitive action that proclaims to all, "I have decided to follow Jesus."

I. **The prerequisite for water baptism**

Acts 8:36b-37a ...and the eunuch said , See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believeth with all thine heart, thou mayest.

A. Believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God
 1. He is the only sacrifice for our sin
 2. He is the only means of salvation
B. Committing our self into His hand
 1. Committing our mortal life into his care
 2. Entrusting him with our eternal destiny

II. **The practice 0f water baptism**

Acts 8:38b-39 ...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

A. The candidate is baptized at his own choice
 1. No infant baptism
 2. No proxy baptism
B. The candidate is baptized by immersion
 1. Greek: baptizo--to immerse
 2. NOTE: ...and they went down both into the water ...And when they were come up out of the water....

III. **The proclamation of water baptism**

Acts 8:37b ...And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

2 Timothy 1:12b ...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

A. I have been saved through the blood of Jesus Christ
B. I am a new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

C. Because I am now a Christian, my life must necessarily change