

## **“One Baptism”**

### **“Ephesians 4:6”**

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

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Introduction: We continue our study in Ephesians 4 under to theme of “The Church under orders.” Previously we considered the aim of the church under orders (4:1) & the appearance of the church under orders (4:2-3). That has taken us to the articles of faith (our anchor) of the church under orders, where we have noted the articles: “*There is one body, & one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism...*” This evening’s study continues our look at “*one baptism.*” What do we believe is meant by this “*baptism*”?

#### I. Water baptism?

##### A. Our obedience to God:

1. A step of obedience > Matthew 28:19-20 (Acts 2:38).
2. A step of identification > Roman 6:3-5 (& cf. I Cor. 10:2; 12:13).

##### B. Our acceptance by God??

1. A necessity for salvation? No! Acts 2:38? Romans 6:3-5?
2. An indication of salvation? Yes! Matthew 3:11?

#### Considerations on Acts 2:38 >

- (1) “Water baptism is the outward sign of repentance & remission of sins. Forgiveness is through faith in Christ, not through the act of baptism” (Ryrie).
- (2) “...for the remission of sins...” – “For” is the word “*eis*” & be translated “unto” or “on the basis of” – as seen in Matthew 3:11, “unto” & see Matthew 12:41; Mark 1:4, & Luke 11:32 – “at” where the same word can be translated “on the basis of.”
- (3) “Baptism does not produce forgiveness & cleansing from sin. The reality of forgiveness precedes the rite of baptism (:41). Genuine repentance brings from God the forgiveness (remission) of sin (Eph. 1:7), & because of that the new believer was to be baptized. Baptism, however, was to be the ever present act of obedience, so that it became synonymous with salvation” (MacArthur).
- (4) “The full meaning of baptism in water had now become evident, testifying of the baptism of the Spirit, as well as the death & resurrection of Christ. It is not that baptism is required for remission of sins (note, for example, the thief on the cross), but rather that baptism is always inseparably associated in Scripture with true repentance & faith” (H. Morris).
- (5) “Baptism is an outward demonstration of the inward reality of Jesus Christ in a person’s life. It is not required for salvation but a requirement because of salvation. Indeed, the word translated **for** in the text is better rendered ‘because of.’ “(Jeremiah).
- (6) “Baptism in water continued to be the external sign by which individuals who believed the gospel message, repented of their sins, & acknowledged Jesus as Lord, were publicly incorporated into the Spirit-baptized fellowship of the new people of God” (Bruce).
- (7) “In a similar passage in the following chapter (3:19), the blotting out of the people’s sins is a direct consequence of their repenting & turning to God; nothing is said there about baptism, although it is not doubt implied (the idea of an unbaptized Christian is simply not entertained in NT)” (Bruce).

## II. Spirit baptism?

Note: "This is a definitive verse on one of the great themes of the Bible" (H. Morris, Jr.).

### A. We are *placed* in the body of Christ - I Corinthians 12:13.

1. "The baptism in one Spirit is the theme of this passage (I Cor. 12), teaching us that every one of the '*brethren*' (:1) – those who '*speaking by the Spirit of God*' have acknowledged Jesus to be their Lord (:3) – has been '*baptized into one body*,' the body of Christ Himself" ( Morris).
2. "There are only 7 explicit references in the Bible to the baptism in the Holy Spirit. All except our text (12:13) are referring to the initial baptizing work of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1)..."
3. "...It deals with the ongoing work of the Spirit in all future instances of true conversion to Christ. Since His first baptism of Jewish believers (Acts 2) & then of Gentiles (Acts 11), *all* – both Jews & Gentiles – are baptized in the Spirit into the body of Christ."
4. "This baptism does not take place repeatedly in one's life, as may be true of the 'filling' of the Spirit, but once, at the time of true conversion."

### B. We are *pictured* as the body of Christ - I Corinthians 12:14-27.

Conclusion: We conclude our study of the articles of faith but a look at number 7, "*One God & Father of all, who is above all, & through all, & in you all*" (4:6).

#### A. He is "*above all*" - He is our Sovereign.

1. Defined: the supreme rulership of God > see Psalm 66:7 & Psalm 93:1.
2. Demonstrated: to believers, Romans 8:28; to unbelievers, Revelation 11:17.

#### B. He is "*through all*" - He is our Sustainer

1. Philippians 1:6, He commenced the work, He continues it, & He will complete it.
2. Ephesians 2:10, He has ordained us unto good works.

#### C. He is "*in you all*" - He is our Security.

1. Romans 8:9-11, His indwelling presence.
2. Philippians 2:13, His unfailing power.

Are you part of the Body of Christ? Consider again the entrance, enjoyment, & enlistment in His body. Are you conscious of the Spirit's indwelling presence? Do you have the blessed hope - as you look for, long for, & love His appearing? Is Christ your Lord, your Savior & Sovereign? Are you part of the faith, believing in this body of truth? Have you been baptized into the body of Christ, placed there by the Spirit of God? And do you know for sure that God is your Father? Is He your Sovereign, your Sustainer, your Security? If these things are not true of you, why not make them true today? Come to Jesus, by way of the cross, & make Him your Lord & Savior.

If you are saved, could you give a Biblical definition for each of these articles of faith? Are you able to give "*...a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness & fear.*" (I Peter 3:15)