

OUR CONDITION BEFORE BAPTISM

1 What picture does the Bible give about our natural condition?

ROMANS 3:23 “For _____ have _____ and fall _____ of the _____ of _____.”

Because of our fallen condition, we are incapable of reflecting God’s glory. Human nature cannot reflect the purity and holiness of God.

2 How do the Scriptures pinpoint the source of our fallen condition?

ROMANS 5:12 “Therefore, just as through _____ man _____ entered the world, and _____ through sin, and thus death spread to _____ men, because all _____.”

Adam’s fall negatively affected humanity. The decision he made opened the door, allowing sin and death to spread. Because of our sin nature, death is our destiny. Without Christ, the world is without hope.

3 How does humanity’s fallen nature influence our decisions?

ISAIAH 53:6 “All we like sheep have _____; we have _____, every one, to his own _____; and the LORD has laid on Him the _____ of us _____.”

We naturally prefer our way above God’s way. None possess the natural tendency to desire God above self. Like sheep ignoring the voice of the shepherd, humanity ignores the voice of God.

4 What diagnosis does the Bible give for the human heart?

JEREMIAH 17:9 “The _____ is _____ above _____ things, and _____; who can _____ it?”

The Bible describes the human heart as unpredictable. We cannot predict our behavior; it is under the control of the fallen nature passed to us through Adam’s sin.

5 How does the psalmist David describe our birth?

PSALM 51:5 “Behold, I was brought forth in _____, and in _____ my mother _____ me.”

We are born with a sinful nature into a sinful world. With the combination of our hereditary tendency to sin and us cultivating sin, we are at odds with God from birth. According to Psalm 14:3, “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.” We are born with a nature programmed to do evil. If our nature is not changed and our destiny not altered, we are lost. Education, success, status, popularity, wealth, and intellect cannot remedy the sin condition. Paul wrote, “For as in Adam all die.” 1 Corinthians 15:22.

6 How does the Bible describe our inability to change?

JEREMIAH 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian _____ his _____ or the _____ its _____? Then may you also do _____ who are _____ to do _____.”

We are as incapable of changing our sin-nature as men are to change their ethnicity and animals are to change their appearance. Without the power that Christ alone brings, our nature remains evil.

THE RESULTS OF OUR CONDITION

7 What is the consequence that comes with our sin-nature?

ROMANS 6:23 “For the _____ of sin is _____.”

Sin has burdened us with a debt we cannot escape—death. It is the burden of humanity. Death is the period at the end of life’s sentence. It is the prison to which we have no key and the grave from which we have no exit.

8 How does sin affect our quality of life?

PROVERBS 14:12 “There is a _____ that seems _____ to a man, but its _____ is the way of _____.”

Our choices and desires deceive us. When our mind is not renewed by the power of Christ, it is unreliable. The end of our journey will disappoint us because sin distorts our perceptions. What appears as life is actually death.

9 How does sin impact our fitness to enter the kingdom?

JOHN 3:5 “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, _____ one is _____ of _____ and the _____, he cannot _____ the _____ of _____.’”

Our first birth disqualifies us from entering God’s Kingdom. Revelation 21:27 reveals why, “There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles.” Since we are born with a defiled nature, heaven would be defiled by our unregenerate nature. That is why Jesus said, “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:7 (NKJV).

10 The apostle Paul put a list together of the many ways that sin affects our nature.

ROMANS 3:11-16 “There is _____ who understands; there is none who _____ after God. (12) They have all _____ aside; they have together become _____; there is none who does good, no, not one. (13) ‘Their _____ is an open tomb; with their _____ they have practiced deceit’; ‘The poison of asps is under their lips’; (14) ‘Whose _____ is full of _____ and bitterness.’ (15) ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) Destruction and _____ are in their ways.’” (NKJV).

THE NEED FOR BAPTISM

11 How does baptism unite us with Jesus?

ROMANS 6:3 “Or do you not know that as many of us as were _____ into Christ _____ were baptized into His _____?”

Jesus’ death was necessary to defeat the nature of sin. Sin required a sacrifice we could not survive because a sinner cannot redeem a sinner. Only a spotless sacrifice could atone for sinful humanity.

12 What does Peter say about the atonement work of Jesus?

1 PETER 1:18-19 “Knowing that you were not _____ with _____ things, like _____ or _____, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, (19) but with the _____ blood of _____, as of a _____ without _____ and without _____.”

We could not provide a perfect sacrifice because Adam became condemned with a corruptible nature. Jesus became our substitutionary Sacrifice.

13 How did Jesus become our substitutionary Sacrifice?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 “For He made _____ who _____ no _____ to be _____ for us, that we might _____ the _____ of God _____.”

Jesus took our place. He walked in our skin. He faced our adversary. He was confronted by temptation. He was assaulted by the accusations of angry men. He was brutally sacrificed for sins He did not commit. Wearing our nature, He overcame and defeated sin. He paid our debt.

14 What transaction does baptism symbolize?

ROMANS 6:5-6 “For if we have been united together in the _____ of His death, _____ we also shall be in the likeness of His _____, (6) knowing this, that our old man was _____ with Him, that the _____ of sin might be done _____ with, that we should no longer be _____ of sin.”

Baptism symbolizes the burial of the sin nature that dominated us. Through baptism, the death of Jesus became the payment for our sin. His death settles a debt that we could not pay. Baptism is also a symbol of putting the “old man” of sin to death, thereby freeing us from its enslaving power.

15 How does the Bible describe the change that comes when we unite with Christ through baptism?

ROMANS 6:4 “Therefore we were _____ with Him through _____ into _____, that just as Christ was _____ from the _____ by the _____ of the _____, even so _____ also should _____ in _____ of _____.”

Until we unite with Christ through baptism, our corrupt nature remains alive. The newness of life comes from being “In Christ.” Baptism is not a second chance to accomplish what we couldn’t the first time. It puts our old nature to death and invites Christ to live His life in us and reveal His righteousness through us. Baptism prepares the way for a “divine nature.”

16 What assurance do we have that the “newness of life” will replace our old nature?

GALATIANS 2:20 “___ have been _____ with _____; it is no longer __ who _____, but _____ lives ____ me; and the _____ which I ____ live in the _____ I live by _____ in the Son of God, who _____ me and _____ Himself ____ me.”

The new life does not come from us, because we have been crucified. We are not trying to live righteously, because “It is no longer I who live.” Baptism is a symbol that the old man of sin is “drowned” or “buried.” As long as we remain in Christ, He will accomplish His righteousness in us. For the new life to survive, we must remain committed to Christ daily.

17 How does the apostle Paul describe our freedom in Christ?

ROMANS 8:1 “There is therefore ____ no _____ to those who are ____ Christ _____, who do not _____ according to the _____, but according to the _____.”

After baptism our “walk” is of utmost importance. We cannot walk according to our former life. We must choose to walk spiritually. Jesus promised to fulfill His end of the contract, and we must fulfill ours.

18 What choice must we continue to make after baptism?

ROMANS 6:12 “Therefore do not _____ in your _____ body, that you should _____ it in its _____.”

Baptism signals the death of the old life, but not the death of the body. We still have a corruptible body. It is called the “Mortal body.” This is where the daily battle with the sinful past takes place. The things that we did will fight to control our thoughts and move us to respond. However, as we unlearn the old and learn the new, righteous thoughts will replace the old.

19 How does Jesus deal with our past sins?

1 JOHN 1:9 “If we _____ our _____, He is _____ and _____ to _____ us our _____ and to _____ us from _____.”

When we are cleansed from our sins, we are “righteous” in God’s sight. That righteousness must be maintained by our daily choices. John wrote, “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.” 1 John 3:7 (NKJV). 1 Corinthians’s 15:31 teaches us, to practice righteousness we must do as Paul did, “I die daily.”

20 What is the proper method for Bible baptism?

MATTHEW 3:16 “When He had been _____, Jesus came ____ immediately _____ the _____; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God _____ like a dove and _____ upon Him.”

Jesus “came up” from the Jordan River. Baptism means to be fully covered by water. Since it is a symbol of death, it means to be fully covered. The Greek word, “Baptizo” means to be plunged into, or drowned. Through the ceremony of baptism, we are plunged under water symbolizing our past is buried. The water is a symbol of Christ’s blood that washes away sin.

21 Through the story of the Ethiopian eunuch, how do we know that baptism is immersion, not sprinkling?

ACTS 8:38 “So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both _____ and the _____ went _____ into the _____, and he _____ him.”

The Ethiopian eunuch was taught by Philip to understand God’s Word. When the eunuch saw a body of water he said to Philip in Acts 8:36, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

22 What does Christ commission us to do when baptizing?

MATTHEW 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the _____ of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____, (20) teaching them to observe _____ things that I have _____ you; and lo, I am with you _____, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

ACTS 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, ‘_____, and let every one of you be _____ in the _____ of _____ Christ for the _____ of sins; and you shall _____ the _____ of the Holy Spirit.’”

Some may wonder why Peter said to baptize “in the name of Jesus Christ,” rather than “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Peter was talking to Jews that already accepted God. He was introducing them to Jesus, whom their leaders had rejected, thereby forfeiting salvation. The phrase, “in the name of _____” means “in the authority of.” Peter’s purpose was to inform the Jewish leaders that the Father’s authority is in His Son.

23 Why is baptism necessary?

MARK 16:16 “He who _____ and is _____ will be saved; but he who _____ believe will be _____.”

The invitation for baptism is far more than joining a church, yet Acts 2:47 teaches, “The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” More than 3000 were baptized and added to the church. Thus, the Lord invites you to be baptized and added to His church. The church unites us as Ephesians 4:5 teaches, into “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”



Washing Away the Past 11

The truth about Baptism

There is no greater joy than beginning again—knowing that your past is not only forgiven but also forgotten. Washing away the past is what baptism is all about. Everything you’ve ever said, done, or thought can be forever erased. For that very reason, baptism is one of the most important teachings in the New Testament. It is so important that, before His ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Baptism is far greater than just beginning again; it is more than getting a second chance. Through baptism, we have been delivered from the penalty of sin. It also brings us into right standing with God. In our former condition we had hearts and minds in conflict with God. However, when we enter into the new life through baptism, our old sinful nature is replaced with a new spiritual nature.

Baptism is the ceremony of spiritually entering into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Full immersion in the water represents our spiritual burial. Our sins are washed away and we are raised into a new life in Christ. We are no longer enemies against God, we are now His sons and daughters. The Holy Spirit comes into our lives to empower us to live the new life in Christ. We experience victory in that new walk as long as we remain connected to the source of our power, Jesus Christ.