

The Doctrine of the Church
Marks of the Church (Part 2)

a) **The Marks of the Church** (*continued*)

i) The Right Administration of the Ordinances

a) *Baptism (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38)*

b) *The Mode of Baptism*

(1) The Greek word *baptizo* means “to plunge, dip, immerse.”

(2) All parties agree that Jesus, the disciples, and the early church practiced immersion.
(Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:5; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39)

(3) Immersion is not an arbitrary method, but a significant spiritual symbol. (Romans 6:3-5;
Colossians 2:12)

c) *The Meaning of Baptism*

(1) Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Romans
6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)

(2) Baptism is used in Scripture as a visible and public expression for faith in Christ. (Acts 2:37-
38; 3:19-20; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)

d) *The Subjects of Baptism*

(1) The strongest Scriptural position is that Christian baptism is exclusively meant for those who believe in Christ and follow Him.¹

(a) The command about baptism to the church specifies those who are repentant and believing disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)

(b) The only clearly recorded subjects of baptism in Acts are those who have repented and believed. (Acts 2:37-41; 8:12-13, 36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5)

(c) Paul's letters demonstrate both that those who have believed have been baptized and that those who have been baptized believe. (Romans 6:1-5; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:11-12)

(2) The argument for infant baptism revolved around the OT sign of circumcision as well as the NT language of "household" baptisms.

(a) The problem with the parallel identification of circumcision and baptism. (Romans 2:29; Colossians 2:11-12)

(b) The problem with the argument from "household" baptisms. (Acts 16:32-34; 1 Corinthians 1:16; 16:15; see also John 4:53; Acts 18:8)

e) *The Common Mistakes Regarding Baptism*

¹ The following points are adapted from Mark Dever's "The Church: The Gospel Made Visible" (Nashville: B&H, 2012), 32.