

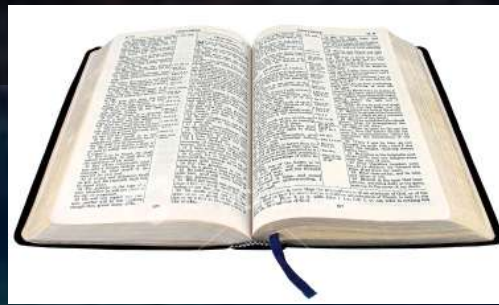
How Important is Baptism?



Ephesians 4:1-6

Important or not?..

- Eph 4:1-6 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit..*⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.



The Bible our only standard

Being able to answer..

- 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear..
- Eph 4:15 .. Speaking the truth in love..

Importance of truth..

- A goal we all share in common..
 - John 8:31-32 “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life”
 - John 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Importance of truth..

- Because so many answers are offered..
 - Necessary for salvation/Symbol already saved?
 - Complete immersion/Sprinkling or pouring?
 - Done with right purpose/Purpose doesn't matter
 - Acts 17:11 Bereans searched scriptures whether these things were so..

Importance of love..

- Many different ideas about baptism ..
 - Disagreements lead to arguments..
 - Very important.. Extremely sensitive..
 - If spoken unkindly, others will not listen..

Importance of love..

- 2 Tim 2:24-26 a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and* *escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Make it our goal..

- Study .. Find out what the Bible says
- Speak the truth.. with a spirit of love

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