



Renew.org Baptism Clarification Statement

New Birth – God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. To believe in Jesus means we trust and follow him as both Savior and Lord. When we commit to trust and follow Jesus, we express this faith by repenting from sin, confessing his name, and receiving baptism by immersion in water. Baptism, as an expression of faith, is for the remission of sins. We uphold baptism as the normative means of entry into the life of discipleship. It marks our commitment to regularly die to ourselves and rise to live for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe God sovereignly saves as he sees fit, but we are bound by Scripture to uphold this teaching about surrendering to Jesus in faith through repentance, confession, and baptism.

1. We uphold water baptism as the normative method given in Scripture to express repentant faith in Jesus and receive salvation, as taught in Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16, Romans 6:1-6, Colossians 2:12, Galatians 3:26-29; 1 Peter 3:21, and the Nicene Creed.
2. We explicitly reject baptismal regeneration—that the act itself saves.
3. We believe God looks at the heart. So, while we are bound by God’s Word to teach and uphold baptism as the normative ceremony expressing repentant-faith for conversion, we also believe God is free and can save people apart from baptism (Acts 10:44-48; Acts 15:9).
4. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the true seal of salvation, the deposit guaranteeing someone is a Christian and has been given an eternal inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9).
5. The core mental and volitional component that makes a valid baptism is the conscious surrender of oneself to the triune God through Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and King (Matthew 28:19-20). We believe this conscious surrender to Jesus by faith is the essential component in a valid baptism because no one can understand everything about baptism when they are baptized (Galatians 3:26-27).

A practical resource for everyday spiritual seekers and Christians is ***Baptism: What the Bible Teaches***, by Twist, Harrington, and Young (Renew.org, 2018). Available as a [free download](#) on Renew.org or to purchase on [Amazon.com](#).

For the best scholarly and technical resource (by consensus), check out Everett Ferguson, ***Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*** (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009).