

XI. The Baptismal Service for Believers by Immersion

A. Meaning of Baptism

"The submergence and emergence of immersion...symbolize the death and burial to sin on the one hand and the resurrection to the new life in Christ on the other. Sanday and Headlam (Church of England) put it thus in their Commentary on Romans (p. 153): 'It expresses symbolically a series of acts corresponding to the redeeming acts of Christ. Immersion=Death. Submersion=Burial (the ratification of death). Emergence=Resurrection.'"

This definition is taken from the INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA, Vol. I, p. 387.

B. Prerequisite for Baptism

A person must be a believer in Jesus Christ in order to be baptized.

C. Announcement of the Baptismal Service

The Baptismal Service should be announced well in advance in order to give those who desire to be baptized an opportunity to request it.

D. Apparel for Baptism

Apparel for baptism is available that was designed with the Candidate in mind. It consists of robes, shorts, and stretch socks for the ladies and girls; and suits and stretch socks for the men and boys. This apparel has a pleasing appearance, and is heavy enough so that it isn't transparent when it is wet. Information about this apparel can be obtained by writing to:

HARTLEY RELIGIOUS VESTMENTS
1811 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203

Telephone: 615/Chapel 2-0381

E. Preparation for the Baptismal Service

1. A list should be given to each candidate of what to bring for the Baptismal Service:

a. Men's List

- (1) A pair of underwear
- (2) A pair of socks
- (3) A handkerchief
- (4) A towel

b. Women's List

- (1) A complete set of underwear
- (2) A pair of socks
- (3) A handkerchief
- (4) A towel

NOTE: These lists should include only the items which the Candidate needs for the Baptismal Service that aren't supplied by the church.