

# BAPTISM - Comparative



**Dipping or sprinkling?**

**To infants or adults?**

**The task of priests or  
layman?**

**(1) The efficacy of baptism**

**(2) Baptism is the task of the  
clergymen**

**(3) The necessity of baptism**

**(4) Baptism by immersion**

**(5) Paedobaptism (Infant Baptism)**

**(6) Objections and replies**

# (1) The Efficacy of Baptism

# **In the Orthodox Church**

**Baptism is the way to receive**

**salvation,**

**purification,**

**justification,**

**renewal of life**

**and**

**membership in the Body of Christ.**

**The  
Second  
Birth**

(John.3:3,5).  
(John.3: 6,8).  
(Titus 3: 5).  
(Eph.5: 26).

**Salvation**

"He who  
believes and is  
baptized will be  
saved"  
(Mark.16: 16).

(Acts 22: 16).  
(1Cor.6: 11).  
(Acts 2: 37,38).

# Baptism

**Newness  
of life**

**Remission  
of sins**

(Rom.6: 4).

**Dying and  
rising with Him**

(Phil.3: 10).  
(Rom.6: 3,4).  
(Col.2: 12).  
(Rom.6: 8).

# According to the Protestant denominations

These things are **only received  
by faith.**

What is then, **the use of  
baptism?**

Is it **just a sign** of  
Christianity?



# Symbols of Baptism in the Old Testament.

- 1. Noah's Ark**
- 2. Circumcision**
- 3. The Crossing of the  
Red Sea**
- 4. Naaman the Syrian**
- 5. The Sinful Jerusalem**

# Noah's Ark

There is also an antitype which  
now saves us--baptism  
(not the removal of the filth of the  
flesh, but the answer of a good  
conscience toward God),  
through the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ (1Pet.3: 20,21).

# Noah's Ark

**All those who were  
in the ark were  
saved from the  
death of the Flood.**

**This confirms  
salvation through  
baptism.**

# Circumcision

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

(Col. 2: 11,12).

**Circumcision is a mark that can not be removed.**

**As blood is shed in circumcision**

**As the circumcised was considered a member of God's people  
(Gen.17: 7)**

**Likewise, baptism can not be erased.**

**likewise, the merit of the Blood shed on our behalf is received in the new life in baptism.**

**Likewise, the baptized becomes a member of the Church; of God's Body.**

**As the uncircumcised  
was cut off from the  
community  
(Gen.17: 14)**

**Likewise, he who is not born  
of water and the Spirit  
(John.3: 3,5) will not enter  
the kingdom of God because  
he was not baptized, he was  
not buried with Christ and  
did not rise with Him.**

**As circumcision was a  
must and a necessity by  
God's command**

**Likewise, baptism is  
necessary for the forgiveness  
of sins and for the  
membership in Christ's Body**

**As man is circumcised  
only once**

**Baptism is performed only  
once**

# The Crossing of the Red Sea

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea”

(1Cor.10: 1,2).

The crossing of the Red Sea was salvation to the people from the slavery of Pharaoh.

Refers to the salvation we receive in baptism from the slavery of sin and death.

**Moses resembles priesthood**

**The element of water is clear in both examples.**

**Naaman the Syrian when Elisha  
asked him to wash in the Jordan  
to be cleansed.**

**And Elisha sent a messenger to him,  
saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan  
seven times, and your flesh shall be  
restored to you, and you shall be  
clean.'**

**But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'**

**Are not the Abanah and the  
Pharpar, the rivers of  
Damascus, better than all the  
waters of Israel? Could I not  
wash in them and be clean?  
So he turned and went away  
in a rage. (2Kin.5: 10-12).**

When **Naaman the Syrian**  
obeyed and washed,  
he was cleansed by his belief.

# **The Sinful Jerusalem**

**When I passed by you again and  
looked upon you, indeed your time  
was the time of love;  
so I spread My wing over you and  
covered your nakedness.**

**Yes, I swore an oath to you and  
entered into a covenant with you,**

# The Sinful Jerusalem

and you became Mine, says the Lord God. Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. (Ezek.16: 8,9)

**“I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil.”**

**This water and this washing are symbols of baptism and the ointment is a symbol of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.**

**“You became Mine” means that Jerusalem (the human soul) became a member of Christ's Body (the Church).**

**(2) Baptism is the task of  
the clergymen**

**Who should administer  
baptism?**

**In the Orthodox Church**

**It is administered only by the  
clergy.**

# **According to the Protestant denominations**

**They don't accept human  
Priesthood.**

**They have:  
a minister  
an elder**

**(or a lady elder in case of groups  
who allow women ministers.)**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded it  
to His pure Apostles.**

**28:19 Go therefore and make  
disciples of all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit (Matt.28: 19).**

**16:15 And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved;  
but he who does not believe will be condemned.**

**(Mark.16: 15,16).**

**Then the Apostles commanded the task to their disciples the **bishops** who in turn commanded it to the **priests**.**

**The clergyman should be an canonical clergyman in the sense that the laying on of hands was carried out by an apostolic and a canonical bishop.**

**“Why do the Orthodox Church rebaptize the converts from the Protestant denominations”?**

- (a) It was not administered by a clergyman**
- (b) It was not considered a Sacrament**
- (c) It was not considered to carry any spiritual efficacious**

**We usually ask of them: 'Have you received salvation in your baptism?**

**Have you received righteousness, newness of life and the forgiveness of sins?**

**Have you been clothed with Christ in baptism?**

**Have you been born anew?**

# **(3) The Necessity of Baptism**

# Baptism is one of the Church Sacraments

**Go therefore and make disciples of  
all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit  
(Matt.28: 19).**

**He who believes and is baptized  
will be saved; but he who does  
not believe will be condemned.**

**(Mark. 16:16).**

**If baptism were meant to be only  
a sign, the Lord would have not  
given it all that importance.**

**When the Jews believed on the Day of Pentecost, St. Peter immediately called them to baptism.**

**Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38).**

On that day **3000 believers** were  
baptized.

Undoubtedly, baptizing that multitude  
was a **tedious** and **difficult** task and  
must have taken a long time.

Unless baptism was **so important** for  
Salvation the Apostles would of  
bypassed it,

**avoiding the hassle** of baptizing all  
these thousands.

**The Ethiopian eunuch** who himself  
asked to be baptized immediately  
after he had believed.

**Now as they went down the road, they  
came to some water. And the eunuch  
said, See, here is water. What hinders  
me from being baptized?**

**Then Philip said, If you believe with  
all your heart, you may.**

**And he answered and said, I believe  
that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

**So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.**

**(Acts 8: 36-39).**

**Saul of Tarsus** was called to be  
baptized to wash away his sins  
after he had believed

**'And now why are you waiting?  
Arise and be baptized,  
and wash away your sins,  
calling on the name of the Lord.'**  
(Acts 22:16).

**Lydia**, the woman dealer of purple cloth was baptized together with all her household after they had believed.

# Cornelius

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? (Acts 10: 44,47)

# **(4) Baptism by immersion**

**We baptize by immersion in water whereas the majority of our Protestant brethren baptize by sprinkling water.**

**Baptism was by immersion  
and not by sprinkling, even  
at the time of St John the  
Baptist.**

**The Lord Jesus Himself  
was baptized by  
immersion.**

**When He had been baptized,  
Jesus came up immediately  
from the water; and behold,  
the heavens were opened to  
Him, and He saw the Spirit of  
God descending like a dove  
and alighting upon Him.**

**(Matt.3:16); (Mark.1: 10).**

**Our Church names the Day  
on which the Lord Jesus  
Christ was baptized**

**Immersion Day**

**Philip baptizing the  
Ethiopian eunuch.**

The word **'baptisma'** means **die**.

Dying cannot be done without  
immersion.

Baptism is the action of being **buried**  
with Christ and tasting death with  
Him.

**“Buried with Him in baptism, in which  
you also were raised with Him**

**through faith in the working of God, who  
raised Him from the dead. (Col.2: 12)**

Baptism is a **rebirth**.

Birth is **the coming out** of a  
body from another body.

**Baptism is the washing away  
of sins as said to St. Paul  
By Ananias (Acts 22:16)  
and as St. Paul said in his  
Epistle to Titus:**

**"He saved us, through the washing  
of regeneration and renewing of the  
Holy Spirit" (Titus 3: 5).**

The action of **washing**  
**needs dipping** into water.

The buildings of **the early churches** will notice **the existence of immersion fonts** which are proof that baptism was by immersion and not by sprinkling.

**(5) Paedobaptism  
(Infant Baptism)**

**In the Orthodox Church**

**We baptize infants on  
the belief of their  
parents.**

# According to the Protestant denominations

They condition the belief of the baptized prior to baptizing him.

insisting on the necessity of belief before baptism and depending on the

Lord's saying:

**“He who believes and is baptized will be saved”** (Mark. 16:16)

**and also on the fact that  
little children do not  
comprehend what is  
happening in baptism.**

**We are concerned about the  
eternal life of children because  
the Lord says:**

**Jesus answered, Most  
assuredly, I say to you,  
unless one is born of water  
and the Spirit, he cannot enter  
the kingdom of God (John 3:5)**

**Through baptism, little children are given the opportunity to practice the life of the Church and enjoy the divine Sacraments.**

The Lord's saying: "**He who believes and is baptized will be saved**" is meant for adults who are capable of comprehending the meanings of faith.

That is why we cannot baptize adults unless they believe, according to the Lord's words in (Mark.16: 16).

As for infants, we apply the Lord's  
saying:

**But Jesus said, Let the little  
children come to Me,  
and do not forbid them;  
for of such is the kingdom of  
heaven.**

**(Matt. 19: 14).**

**Little children are in the stage of believing and accepting everything; they do not refuse or reject faith; the doubt, inquiring, questioning and reasoning of adults have not yet entered their sphere.**

If we were utterly strict on the condition of belief, we would have forbidden from baptism many adults who were not mentally mature to comprehend the facts and depths of belief, such as **the peasants, laborers, illiterates,**

**the poorly educated and those of  
too limited understanding to get  
into the depth of the theological  
facts.**

**Some ask: What happens if the little child refuses the faith when he grows up?**

**He will be considered an apostate. We had done our duty towards him and the matter is left to him.**

**Since our Protestants brethren hold that belief is a condition for salvation and that little children have no belief, what then, from their point of view, is the destiny of little children who are unbaptized and have no belief?**

**The Holy Bible mentions baptisms of whole families or of a person with his entire household, and there is no doubt that there must have been children in those families.**

**The Jailer at Philippi:**  
So they said, 'Believe on the  
Lord Jesus Christ, and you  
will be saved, you and your  
household.' Then they spoke  
the word of the Lord to him  
and to all who were in his  
house.

**And he took them the same  
hour of the night and washed  
their stripes.**

**And immediately he and all  
his family were baptized (Acts  
16: 31-33).**

**Lydia, the dealer of purple cloth**

**And when she and her household  
were baptized, she begged us,  
saying, “If you have judged me to  
be faithful to the Lord,  
come to my house and stay.”**

**So she persuaded us.**

**(Acts 16: 15).**

**Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas.**

**Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.**

**(1Cor.1: 16).**

In history the disagreement between St. Augustine and St. Jerome **on the origin of the soul**: whether is it **born** or **created**?

St. Augustine said that it is **born** with man and St. Jerome said that it is **created**.

**The Holy Bible does  
not mention that there  
were no little children  
among those who were  
baptized on the Day of  
Pentecost.**

**St. Augustine asked: "If it is  
created,  
it does not inherit Adam's sin.  
Why then do we baptize  
infants?"**

**St. Jerome could not reply to  
this question.**

There is **not a single**  
**verse** in the Holy  
Bible that forbids  
paedobaptism.

With regard to belief, we baptize little children **on the belief of their parents** which in essence has **many examples** in the Holy Bible:

**Circumcision** in the Old Testament symbolized baptism.

The circumcised was considered a member of God's people according to the covenant between God and Abraham (Gen.17: 11).

It is known that circumcision  
was to be done **on the eighth  
day** after birth, according to  
God's command  
(Gen.17: 12).

The child **was circumcised on  
his parents' belief** in such a  
covenant;

he became **a member of**  
**God's people** and was  
entitled to the promises  
which God endowed upon  
our father Abraham.

**The crossing of the Red Sea** was a symbol of baptism or a baptism itself as St. Paul the Apostle explained: **“all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea (1Cor.10: 2).**

**What was the position of the little children** who were carried by their mothers and fathers across the Sea?

**The salvation of the little children, through  
the blood of the Passover lamb,  
from the hand of the Angel who killed every  
firstborn son. (Ex. 12:13).**

**For indeed Christ, our Passover, was  
sacrificed for us.**

**(1Cor.5: 7).**

**What was the belief of the little children who were  
saved by the blood of the Passover lamb?**

The background is a deep blue with a radial pattern of light rays emanating from the top-left corner, creating a sense of depth and focus.

**Immunization of the children.  
Cleansing of the little children.**

# **(6) Objections and replies**

**1. Isn't faith sufficient without baptism?**

**2. How was the Penitent Thief saved without baptism?**

**3. Does water have the property that gives birth and renewal?**

**4. Why a clergyman?**

**What happens if the clergyman who administers baptism is a malefactor?**

**5. If baptism is renewal of life, why do we sin thereafter?**

**6. How does the infant inherit the sin of his parents who were previously baptized and whose sins were forgiven?**

**7. Is the water in baptism a symbol of the word?**

**The Apostle says concerning the relationship of Christ with the Church:**

**"... that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"**

**(Eph.5: 26).**

If baptism is renewal of  
life,  
why do we sin after being  
baptized?

Baptism is renewal of life,  
but it **does not bestow  
infallibility.**

**1- New birth**



**2- NEW  
LIFE**

**4- New  
nature**

**(Titus 3:5).**

***3- New graces***

**Does baptism still carry its  
efficacious if the clergyman who  
administers it is a malefactor?**

**The graces we receive in baptism  
are from God and not from the  
clergyman who is but a minister  
of the Lord the Giver.**

**The clergyman is like the postman  
who carries a joyful letter to you.**

Compare the clergyman to **the gardener** sowing seeds in the earth to bring forth fruits. Whether he is sinful or virtuous does not matter; what matters are **the seeds themselves** and **the life** therein, **not the hands** of the gardener who sows them.

**How was the Penitent Thief  
saved without baptism?**

**If baptism is so important,  
were the prophets of the Old  
Testament baptized?**

**This commandment is laid down in  
Christianity.**

**Why?**

**Because baptism is dying with Christ  
and Christ had not died in the Old  
Testament.**

**The prophets** of the Old Testament practiced what they could in their days:

**the symbols** of baptism such as circumcision and crossing the Red Sea. They also celebrated the Passover lamb, which symbolized the Blood of Christ.

**"brought us forth by the word  
of truth"**

**(Jas.1: 18).**

**Sometimes the absence of a word  
does not render it unnecessary,  
but that **its meaning is implied****

Does the absence of the word  
**'faith'** in

**(Eph.5: 26) that He might  
sanctify and cleanse her with  
the washing of water by the  
word**

**And in (Jas.1: 18) “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”**

**And in (1Pet.1: 23) “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”**

**mean that faith is not important or necessary?**

**No; it is implied**

# Water and Blood

On the Cross, when one of the soldiers pierced the Lord Jesus' side with a spear, "immediately blood and water came out"  
(John.19: 34).

**We receive it through water in  
baptism.**

**We receive the Blood of Christ  
which purifies us from every  
sin through water.**

**And there are three that bear  
witness on earth:  
the Spirit, the water, and the  
blood; and these three agree as  
one.**

**(1John.5: 8).**

**The water of baptism is not just  
ordinary water  
and the baptized is not only born of  
water but of **water** and the **Spirit**.  
The Holy Spirit sanctifies the water  
of baptism,  
giving it a special nature so that  
whoever is submerged in it is born of  
water and the Spirit.**

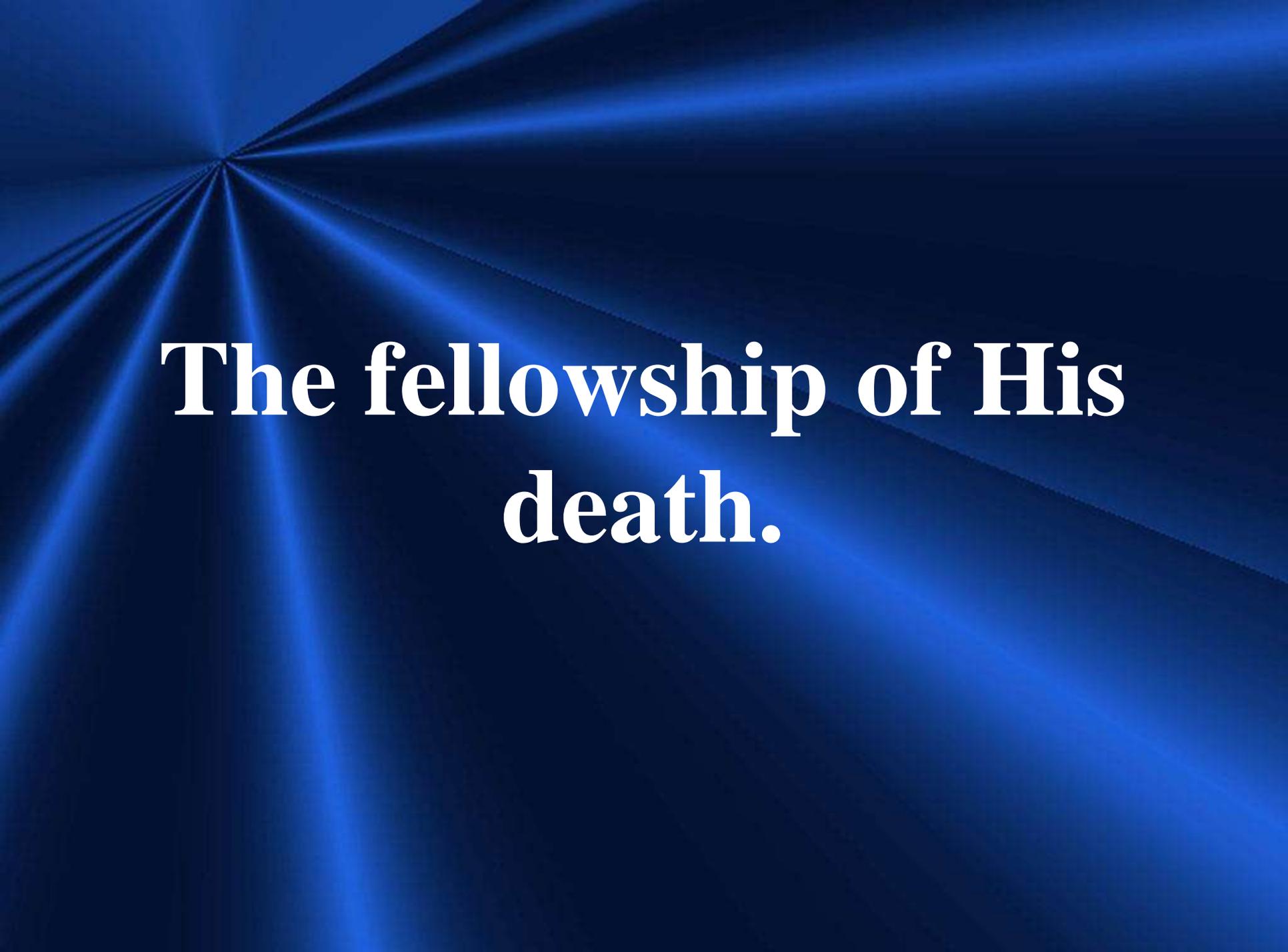
**When the Lord healed the man  
born blind, He put mud on his  
eyes and said to him:**

**“Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam”  
(which is translated, Sent).**

**So he went and washed, and came  
back seeing” (John.9: 6,7)**

**Baptism is dying with Christ  
and rising with Him**

**For if we have been united  
together in the likeness of His  
death, certainly we also shall  
be in the likeness of His  
resurrection (Rom.6: 5)**



**The fellowship of His  
death.**

**Why should a person whose parents were baptized and saved from Adam's sin, be baptized as well?**

**We did not inherit the penalty of death from our immediate parents** so that we are saved if they are baptized, **but we inherited it directly from Adam and Eve:** the first of the human race.

**The Orthodox understanding of Original Sin is that we inherit the corrupted nature (not Adam's actual sin). Thus, a child is baptized to renew the nature, not to remove Adam's sin.**

**Therefore, just as through  
one man sin entered the  
world, and death through  
sin, and thus death spread  
to all men,  
because all sinned—**

**(Rom.5: 12)**

**For as in Adam all die, even so in  
Christ all shall be made alive.**

**(1Cor.15: 22).**

**“In sin my mother conceived me.”**

**(Ps.51: 5).**

And Glory be to the  
Holy Trinity the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit  
One God  
Amen.