

- I. The Flawed Argument for Immersion Only
 - A. The Lexical Argument (Mar 7:3-4; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 33; Joel 2:28)
 - B. The Grammatical Argument (Acts 8:38-39; Matt 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22)
- II. The Imagery of Immersion
 - A. Immersion in the Old Testament: Drowning and New Birth/New Creation (1 Pet 3:20-21; Gen 6-9; 1 Cor 10:1-4; Exo 14; Isaiah 8:6-8; 30:27-28)
 - B. Immersion and Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection (Mark 10:38; Luke 12:50; Ps 69)
 - C. Immersion and Union with Christ in His Death and Resurrection (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12; Gal 2:20; 3:27)
- III. The Imagery of Pouring
 - A. Pouring and Filling in the Old Testament (Exo 31:2-3; Deu 34:9; Isa 44:3; Ezek 39:29; Joel 2:28-29)
 - B. The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Matt 3:11-12; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 33; Joel 2:28-29)
- IV. The Imagery of Sprinkling
 - A. Sprinkling as Washing/Cleansing in the Old Testament (Num 8:6-7; 19:18-19; Ps 51:7; Exo 24:8; Heb 9:19-22; Ezek 36:25-27)
 - B. Cleansed by the Sprinkled Blood of Christ (Heb 9:14; 10:19-22; 12:24; 1 Pet 1:1-2, 18-19)

WSC 94 What is baptism? A. Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

WCF 28.2 The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water, wherewith the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by a minister of the Gospel, lawfully called thereunto.

WCF 28.3 Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by pouring, or sprinkling water upon the person.

“Whether baptism must be in a single or threefold dipping has always been considered indifferent in the Christian Church. Similarly whether immersion or aspersion is to be used, since no express command of the former is extant and examples of sprinkling as well as of dipping may be gathered in the Scriptures.” —*Leiden Synopsis*

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What is the element used in baptism? What are the ways that element can be applied?
2. In what ways does immersion communicate the significance of baptism? Pouring? Sprinkling?