

## BAPTISM - A WEDDING CEREMONY

### SORTING OUT THE CONFUSION

1. Among people who have a belief in Christ there is much confusion about the necessity, meaning, and form of baptism.
2. Understanding the relationship of Christian baptism to a wedding ceremony will help clarify the place of baptism.
3. The Lord claimed the church as His bride (II Cor. 11:2).
  - A. When did we become His bride?
  - B. What was the ceremony that established the relationship?
4. The Marriage Institution will be our starting place.
  - A. Read Genesis 2:23-24.
  - B. Read Matthew 19:6.
  - C. Read I Corinthians 12:12-14.
5. As the marriage ceremony makes two become one, so baptism makes Jesus and a believer one.
6. Scripture clearly makes the connection between Christ and the church and the marriage relationship (Ephesians 5:28, 32).
  - A. Read Ephesians 5:25-27.
  - B. Read Acts 22:16.
  - C. Read Titus 3:4-7.

### NEITHER WATER NOR SPIRIT ALONE

1. Baptism has two basic components, water and Spirit.
  - A. Read I Corinthians 12:13.
  - B. Read John 3:3-6.
2. Water, the Holy Spirit, and our Spirit combine in the new birth.
3. Baptism is in the context of faith.
  - A. Read John 3:18
  - B. Read Mark 16:16.

### ACKNOWLEDGING HEADSHIP

1. The Israelites were "baptized" into Moses' authority (I Cor. 10:1-2).
2. We are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27).
3. Christ is head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22-23).
4. As a husband is the head of the wife, Christ is head of the church (Eph. 5:22-23).

### THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE

1. Christians are cleansed by the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:13-14).
2. Christ established the New Covenant in His blood (Matt. 26:28).
3. We enter into the benefits of Christ's death at baptism (Rom. 6:3-4).
4. What God joins together in baptism, let not man separate.