

What the Bible teaches about Water Baptism

Why be baptized?

1. Because you want to follow Christ's example.

"At the time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9)

2. Because Christ commanded it.

Jesus said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20)

3. Because it shows you are a believer.

"many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

4. Because obeying Christ's command shows that you know Him.

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3)

What is the meaning of baptism?

1. It is the symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins...he was buried...and he rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." (Col. 2:12)

2. It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" (2 Cor. 5:17)

"By our baptism then we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead also we might live a new life!" (Romans 6:4)

Please observe that baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you already are one!

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

How are we to be baptized?

1. Like Jesus was baptized - by being immersed in water.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." (Matt. 3:16)

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water.

(Example) "...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39)

3. The word "Baptize" literally means "to dip under water." The Greek word "baptizo" means "to immerse or dip under water."

4. It is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection. The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther..."I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin..."The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley..."Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized." (Acts 2:41)

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and in the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:13)

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ! We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

When are we to be baptized?

As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay!

"Those who believed...were baptized...that day!" (Acts 2:41)

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along
(continued on next panel)

the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, Look here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now? Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. The official answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:36-39 (paraphrase))

There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

What about being baptized twice?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience, but it simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized. Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to follow his example.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time.

Can an infant be baptized?

No. While other churches may practice this, we believe that a person must have received the Lord as Savior and each person must fully understand the meaning of baptism.

Will I have to say anything?

No.

How will the service be conducted?

During the church service, Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. Near the end of the service (unless otherwise instructed) you will be released to go to the baptismal entrance. The baptism entrance is located near the men's restroom in the downstairs north hallway. You will wait in the hallway for your turn to be baptized. Please enter the baptistery after the previous person exits the stairway. After you enter the baptistery, the pastor will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you will leave the water, dry off, and watch with the others.

What should I wear to be baptized?

Please be modest. We recommend wearing dark clothing that will not "see through" when it gets wet. You might consider a dark shirt or dark tea shirt and jeans. You may wear this to church if you'd like, or you will have an opportunity to change shortly before the baptism. After the baptism you can change back into your church clothes or you may want to bring a dry change of clothes to wear home. Other things to consider: hair brush, comb, towel, shoes are optional. If you want to wear shoes, consider non-slip shoes, sandals, tongs, or sneakers.

Please feel free to contact the church office to inform us of your desire to be baptized.

God will bless you as you demonstrate your faith in Christ!

Water Baptism



"You're Gonna Love This Church!"



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