

Baptism Explained

Faith is based on a relationship with Jesus Christ, which reconnects us with God. Yet Jesus also taught two specific acts, or rituals, for believers to use to celebrate what God has done for us... baptism & communion.

After you make a commitment to trust Jesus, you enter into a life-long relationship with God as a Christian. A Christian, or literally 'Christ's one', then attempts to learn more about God and about what Jesus taught concerning our lives & God's plan for mankind.

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Christ.

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

2. Because Christ commanded it.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

"many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized" Acts 18:8

"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 illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

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

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian

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

Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it demonstrates that you already believe. It's important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. You are "saved" only by your faith in Jesus. Yet it is part of salvation.

"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 is like a wedding ring... it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

Why be baptized by immersion (dunking)?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

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

2. Every baptism in the bible was by immersion.

(Example) "... then both Philip and the man 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' actually means, 'to dip under water.'

4. Immersion best symbolized a burial & resurrection!

"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 Corinthians 5:17

Who should be baptized?

Answer: Every person who believes in Christ and his teaching

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

"Simon himself believed and was baptized..." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

Belief always comes **BEFORE** baptism. You believe first, baptized second. It's no use baptizing someone who doesn't believe. But on the other hand, belief isn't really believing if you refuse to get baptized.

When should I be baptized?

Answer: As soon as you have believed

"Those who believe ... 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 the road, they came to some water, and the man 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 man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect" you'll never be ready.