

Baptism

AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD FAITH

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- **It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection.**

1 Cor. 15:3-4 ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Col. 2:12

- **It illustrates my new life as a Christian.**

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- **Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it just shows that you already believe.**

Eph. 2:8-9 ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- **Because Christ commanded it**

Matt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

- **To follow the example set by Jesus**

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

- **To follow the example set by all the NT believers in Scripture**

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
Acts 8:12-13 ¹²But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Simon himself believed and was baptized.

Baptism is now considered to be an ordinance of the church.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- **Everyone who believes in Christ**

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WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

- **In the Bible, grown men and women were baptized immediately following their belief in Jesus Christ.**

- **What about infants?**

At Bethany, we have a dedication service for infants and children that emphasize the parent's role in raising a child to follow Christ.

HOW IS BAPTISM TO BE DONE?

By immersion...by quickly dunking the believer under water

- The word baptize comes from the Greek word “baptizo” which means to “submerge” or “dip under.”
- It best symbolizes death and resurrection by going down and then rising up
- Because Christ was baptized that way.
 Matt. 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.
- Baptism in the Scriptures appears to normally be by immersion.
 Acts 8:38-39 ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

WHY DON'T PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?

- **Ignorance** - Some people are not told that they should, but that the Bible makes it clear that this should be done.
- **Fear** - Some people are afraid to get up in front of a group. People prefer to please themselves and others rather than God
 John 12:43 ⁴²Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.
- **Rebellion** - Some people know what they should do but just don't want to submit.
 John 14:15 If you love me, you will obey what I command.