

What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

1. It illustrates 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." Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my 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 Corinthians 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... so also we may live a new life!" Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer—it shows that you already believe. 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.

"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

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus Christ.

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

2. Because Christ commands 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 then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matthew 28:19–20

3. It demonstrates that I 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

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 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" means "to dip under water."

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

4. It best symbolizes a death, burial and resurrection!

Who Should Be Baptized?

1. Every person who has believed in Christ.

"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

When Should I Be Baptized?**As soon as you have believed!**

"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 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 feel "good enough!"

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Women should wear shorts and a top over a swimsuit. Men can wear casual clothes with a swim suit or whatever they want. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

What goes on at a baptism service?

At the beginning of the service, Pastor Gary will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the water for your turn. Pastor Gary will introduce you and you will have an opportunity to share a brief testimony. A mentor who has impacted your life may also help baptize you on the other side of Gary. They will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, raise you back up out of the water, and then you can leave the water, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism. This is a great time to celebrate what God has done in our lives!