

Who should be baptized?

The early church obeyed the Lord's command (**Matthew 28:19-20**). Jews were baptized (**Acts 2:41-42**); Samaritans were baptized (**Acts 8:12**); Gentiles were baptized (**Acts 10:44-48**); Paul was baptized (**Acts 9:18**); Lydia was baptized (**Acts 16:14-15**) to name only a few. In all cases, belief in Christ and His finished work on Calvary preceded baptism. "But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike." (**Acts 8:12**)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as an individual has put his faith in Christ and evidences an authentic change in life-style, he should publicly identify with Christ in water baptism.

Acts 8:35-38 (NLT)

"So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. ³⁶As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" ³⁷"You can, Philip answered, "if you believe with all of your heart." And the eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." ³⁸He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Acts 16:30-33 (NLT)

"Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." ³²And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized."

How should we be baptized?

We believe in water baptism by immersion for the following reasons:

1. The meaning of the original word "Baptizo" was to immerse, to dip, to sink, to submerge, to plunge. Every passage where the word occurs in the New Testament either requires or allows the meaning "immerse." **Matthew 3:6,11; Mark 1:5,9; Acts 2:41, 16:29-33**
2. You will find the use of the preposition "into" and "in" used with the verb "baptize" but not the preposition "upon." "Into" speaks of the element (water) into which the person passes. "In" speaks of the

element (water) in which the baptizing takes place.

3. Circumstances strongly indicate that there was always sufficient water on hand to permit immersion to be practiced. **Mark 1:10; John 3:23; Acts 8:38,39**

Church history supports immersion. Martin Luther said, "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imparts and the mystery signifies." John Wesley concurred, "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

Why should we be baptized?

We obey the Lord in water baptism to follow the example of Jesus Christ. "Jesus...was baptized by John in the Jordan." (**Mark 1:9-11**); to heed the instructions of Christ, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," (**Matthew 28:19**); and to evidence in an outward manner that we identify with Christ in His death and in His life. "Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life," (**Romans 6:4**). Our loyalty and obedience to Christ and His Word confirm our commitment to Him, (**1 John 2:3**).

Baptism is...

Communion with Christ
Carrying out of all righteousness
Copying the pattern of Christ
Confessing to all present my allegiance to Christ



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What is the process of baptism?

After you sign and submit your application for baptism, the Deacon board will call and schedule an interview. In the interview process they will listen to your testimony of how you came to be a follower of Jesus Christ. (Important...please allow plenty of time between the submission of your application and the date of the baptism for this interview to take place) After they listen to your testimony they make ask you a few questions about your faith and then share with you information you need to know for the day of your baptism.

When is the next baptism service?

The Deacon board usually schedule a baptism service twice a year...spring and fall. However, they are willing to do a baptism service on any Sunday. Take this into consideration to allow enough time for them to fill and adequately heat the baptistry.

(Please detach the lower portion and give to a Pastor, Elder, Deacon or turn it in to the church office)

After prayerfully and carefully searching my own heart and the Scriptures, it is my desire to publicly confess my faith in Christ through water baptism.

(Please print your name here)

(Signature) Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Birthdate: _____

Application for Water Baptism



Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.** ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What is baptism?

Baptism is an ordinance or outward rite which "Christ has appointed to be administered in His Church as a visible sign of the saving truth of the Gospel." In other words baptism is an outward expression of our inward confession of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

At the moment of baptism a believer makes a heart/mind commitment to Christ, whose death is the means of his redemption and whose life will be the continuing "dynamic" of his career.

Baptism is a symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-11 (NLT)

"Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?...⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was....⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus."