

What is Baptism?

Baptism (pronounced bap-tiz-um) is a way to show everyone that you love and obey God. When someone is baptized, they stand in a pool of water, and then a pastor dips them all the way under the water for a second, and then pulls them right back out of the water. It is something that Christians should all do once they have accepted Jesus Christ into their hearts as their Lord and Savior.



Why Should We Be Baptized?

The reason we should be baptized is to show everyone that we love and obey God. Even Jesus, God's own Son, was baptized when He lived here on Earth, because He wanted everyone to know that He loved and obeyed God. You can read about Jesus being baptized in Matthew 3:13-17, and also in Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21-22. In Matthew 28:19, 29, Jesus told His disciples to make disciples of everyone they could, and also to baptize them. Jesus also said in Matthew 10:32 that we should let people know that we love Jesus instead of keeping it a secret. So, since Jesus says that we should be baptized, we should be!

What's Up With The Water?

There's a certain way that we should be baptized, and the Bible shows us how we're supposed to do it. Every time someone was baptized in the Bible, they were dipped underwater for a second, and then pulled out. A fancy word for this is "immersion" (pronounced im-mer-shun.) It means that we are dipped under the water. The reason we baptize people this way is to be a symbol—that is, it's supposed to remind us of certain things. When we are dipped under the water, it reminds us of dying, because when we ask Jesus into our hearts, we die to our sins. Being under the water is also supposed to remind us of being buried after we die. Then, when we come back out of the water, it reminds us of resurrection—that is, it reminds us that Christ makes us into a new creation when we ask Him into our hearts.

It can also remind us that Jesus rose from the dead, and that we will also rise from the dead after we die. These are the reasons why we baptize people by immersion. There are other ways to baptize people, but this is the way that the Bible tells us to do it!

When Should We Be Baptized?

After we have asked Jesus into our hearts to save us. (John 1:12, Romans 10:9) That means that we believe that Jesus is God's Son, and that He died so that we could have our sin forgiven. It also means that we belong to Jesus from then on. Unless we are saved by Jesus, we really can't be baptized. In Acts 8:36-37, Phillip would not baptize the Eunuch unless he believed with all his heart in the Lord Jesus. We should be baptized soon after we become saved by Jesus too.

All of the New Testament Scriptures show that those who gladly received the message of Christ and believed in Him were also baptized. (Acts 2:41; 8:38; 16:33.)

That doesn't mean that it's too late for you to be baptized if you haven't been baptized yet, but now that you know what baptism is, and if you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you should be baptized now.

Can I Go To Heaven if I Haven't Been Baptized?

Yes. We don't have to be baptized in order to be saved, and being baptized won't save us.

Only Jesus Christ our Lord can save us—nothing more and nothing less. The reason we should be baptized is to let everyone know that we love and obey God and believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. God told us that we are supposed to be baptized after we become Christians, and so we should do it—not because He forces us to, but because we love Him and we want to please Him!

