

## Baptism

### Why should I get baptized?

- 1. To follow the example set by Jesus Christ.**  
“At that time Jesus from Nazareth was baptized by John in the river Mark 1:9”.
- 2. Baptism is a command of Jesus Christ.**  
“Jesus said, go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing 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 is an opportunity to demonstrate obedience as in my Christian walk.**  
“Many 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).
- 4. Baptism is an initiation ceremony into Body of Christ, The Church.**  
“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)

### What is the meaning of baptism?

The word “baptize” means to immerse under the water. The Greek word “baptize” means to immerse or dip under water.

- 1. Baptism illustrates Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.**  
Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and he rose again. (1 Corinthians 15:3–44).  
  
“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 in Christ as a Christian.**  
When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand-new person inside. The old things have passed away, and a new life has begun (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- 3. By our baptism then, we were buried with him and shared in his death, in order that, just as Jesus was raised from the dead... So we may also have a new life (Romans 6:4).**

Baptism does not make you a believer. It is an important public ceremony commemorating your faith and acceptance of Christ, as Lord and Savior – it shows that you already believe.

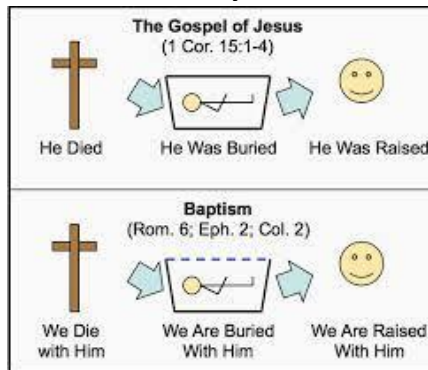
Baptism does not save you, only your *faith* in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a wedding ring – it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you have made in your heart.

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith... Is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8–9)

### Why baptism by immersion?

1. **Because Jesus was baptized by immersion.**  
“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.**  
“Then both Phillip and the man went down into the water and fill up baptized him. When they came up out of the water”. (Acts 8: 38–39).
3. **Immersion best symbolizes a burial death and resurrection.**



4.

### Who should be baptized?

*Every person who believes in Christ. A believer is someone who has realized that their sin separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God.*

*A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized! (Acts 2:41; 8:12-12)*

1. **Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ should be baptized.**  
“Those who believed and excepted his message were baptized”. (Acts 2:41)  
“Simon himself believed and was baptized” (Acts 8:13)  
“...but when they believed Phillip as he preach the good news... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women”. (Acts 8:12).

### What about children ?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the person did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual’s decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation

(Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). Our recommendation is to wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before baptizing them. In the meantime, we should have the child experience a dedication ceremony, which you can plan with the clergy.

### **What about infant baptism ?**

In the Bible, we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So, it seems more Biblical to wait until after a personal decision to trust Christ as Savior has been made by the child. If baptism is a public profession of salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should be baptized.

### **When should I be baptized?**

1. As soon as you have believed, you should seek to obey the Lord's command and be baptized.

“Those who believed... were baptized... that day (Acts 2:41)

“Then Phillip began with the passage of 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? Phillip said if you believe with 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.

### **Questions relating to baptism:**

1. **When and how can I get baptized ?**

If you wish to get baptized through this ministry, please complete the contact card on this website for information. Most often, baptism can be arranged within a few days. Also, most local churches offer baptism most Sundays, contact your local church for their baptism schedule.

2. **Can my family members be baptized together?** Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who have not come to the decision-making age, can participate in a dedication service and then be baptized when they come to an age of understanding. (usually around 9-10 years old), but this can be decided between parents and clergy.
2. It is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith in Jesus Christ and involves repentance, and not necessarily a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to except Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on the child and delays your obedience.

**What should I wear to get baptized?**

You can wear anything that is comfortable. Most people wear shorts and a dark colored t-shirt. Remember that your clothes will get wet so be cautious that your clothes once wet, they are not “see-through”. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes to go home in.

**Will I have to say anything?**

Usually, the pastor or person presiding over your baptism service will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait for your turn to be baptized, the person baptizing will introduce you, and explain the procedure. Just prior to immersion, the pastor will ask you if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Following your answer... (Yes. I have) He or she will ask you, if you “believe that Jesus Christ died, was buried and rose again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day”. To which your answer will be (Yes. I do). You will then be told “I am now baptizing you according to the Scriptures in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”. You will be briefly lowered under the surface of the water, and then brought up out of the water. You will be received by people with towels to help you. Later, you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your family and friends to attend your baptism. It is a time of celebration.

If you have additional questions, simply complete the contact card on this website and someone from our team will help you.





