



bethany

christian church

Baptism

Why Should I Be Baptized?

A. To follow the example set by Christ.

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

B. Because Christ commanded it.

“Jesus said, Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciple, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

C. It demonstrates that I am a believer.

“We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.” (I John 2:3)

D. It is the outward sign of a commitment.

Baptism is symbolic similar to how a wedding ring speaks to a marriage.

What Does Baptism Symbolize?

A. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” (Colossians 2:12) “Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.” (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

B. 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!” (II Corinthians 5:17) “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.” (Romans 6:4)

C. Baptism alone doesn’t make you a Christian.

Only your faith in Christ does that. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift from God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” (Matthew 3:16)

B. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

For 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)

C. The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”

D. It best symbolized a burial & resurrection

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. If we have been united with



Baptism

him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:1 -11)

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ should be baptized. 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. "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." (Acts 2:41) "But 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. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw." (Acts 8:12-13)

What About Children?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the candidate did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation. "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." (Acts 2:41) "But 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." (Acts 8:12) "Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." ⁴⁸So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. "(Acts 10:47-48). At Bethany, we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them in the Christian faith.

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 has been made by the child. If baptism signifies salvation (as the Bible teaches), then only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. If you haven't experienced baptism as a believer, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take



Baptism

place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

When Should I Be Baptized?

You should 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)

Does This Mean It Has To Be Immediate?

No, but the Bible teaches that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are “good” enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.