

WATER BAPTISM According to The New Testament

1. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. Because you want to follow Christ's example.

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

2. Because Christ commanded it.

Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:19-20

3. Because it shows you are a believer.

"...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8

4. Because obeying Christ's command shows you know Him.

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." 1 John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It unites us with Christ's death and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried... and He was raised." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

You were "buried with him [Christ], and raised with him [Christ]..." Col. 2:12

2. It marks my new life as a Christian.

"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor. 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

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 outwardly states that you have made a commitment to Christ and you are united with Him in all things.

"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." Eph. 2:8,9

III. HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

1. Like Jesus was baptized - by being immersed in water

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matt. 3:16

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water.

(Example) *"... then both Philip and the eunuch 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" literally means "to dip under water."

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

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in christ.

"Those who believed Peter were baptized..." Acts 2:41(LB)

"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

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ! We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

v. When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay.

"Those who accepted his message... were baptized... that day!" Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus ... 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?'" Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you receive Him as your Lord and Savior, you can and should be baptized.

What About Being Baptized Twice?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was and commanded to be baptized. Every GCCC member has been baptized by immersion as Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to follow.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Women should wear shorts and a top rather than a swimsuit. Men may wear a swimsuit. We have baptismal robes if you choose to use one. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing rooms. If you are being baptized outdoors in a lake or river, you should dress appropriately.

Will I have to say anything?

We ask everyone who is being baptized to acknowledge their relationship with Christ by confessing Him publicly as Lord.

"Everyone therefore who shall confess me before men, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32 (NAS)

You will be asked something like, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God? Have you accepted Him as the Lord, Savior and Master of your life?" Your response is simply, "Yes!" The person baptizing you will briefly lower you just under the water, and then raise you out again. Then, you can leave the water, and dry off. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

GOD WILL BLESS YOU AS YOU DEMONSTRATE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST

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