

Baptism Information



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Baptism is a symbol

It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

When you are lowered into the water, that's a picture of Jesus being buried in a tomb. When you come up out of the water, that's a picture of Jesus' resurrection. Baptism doesn't just tell your story, it tells the story of Jesus

It illustrates new life as a Christian

When you go under the water, it's a picture of your old self being washed away. As a Christian, your old life is gone, and you're a brand new person.

Baptism doesn't make you a believer

It shows that you already are. Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches us that we are saved by faith, not by any action on our part. Baptism isn't required for salvation, it's a symbol that it has already happened.

What does the Bible say about baptism?

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

"Those who accepted His message were baptized ..." Acts 2:41

Everyone who has decided to follow Jesus. Sometimes, families and friends are baptized together, though it is important to remember that baptism is a personal Statement of faith.

WHEN TO GET BAPTIZED

People in the Bible were baptized as soon as they could. You don't have to wait until you are perfect – you'll never feel good enough. Just as the bride or groom put on their wedding rings as soon as they can, Christ followers should be baptized as soon as they can.

HOW TO BE BAPTIZED

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

Every baptism in the Bible happened by immersion. In fact, the word for baptize in the Bible literally means to "dip under." Jesus was also baptized by going under the water

WHAT ABOUT BABIES

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. When you consider the meaning and symbolism of baptism, you can see why we baptize those old enough to understand their decision to follow Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 15:3–4** "Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again
- **Colossians 2:12** "having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God"
- **Romans 6:4** "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."
- **1 Corinthians 12:12–13** "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."
- **Acts 8:35–38** "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."