

Baptism

The **significance, meaning** and **purpose** of baptism

What is the significance of baptism?

Have you ever thought about getting baptized but have too many questions still unanswered?

In this video we would love to help you understand a little bit more about this significant next step in your journey of following Jesus.

Why should I consider getting baptized?

Following Christ:

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, it is important to consider what the Bible says about it: *Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.*

Mark 1:9–11 (NLT)

⁹One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

An act of obedience:

Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

A public declaration:

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ.

It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for Christian life.

What is the meaning and significance of baptism?

A move from death to life:

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb and His resurrection from the dead.

Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

A brand-new life:

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the "old life" and we rise to walk in a "new life". Baptism is like a wedding ring, it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

Here is one simple way to explain baptism:

Baptism is a symbol. It's meant to show the world that that you love, trust and have put your hope in Christ. It's like a wedding ring.

Let's say I'm not married right now, but if I put a wedding ring on my finger, would that make me married? No, of course not. Similarly, I can be baptized in a church, but that doesn't make me a true believer in Christ.

Similarly, I can be a believer in Christ, but not baptized, and my sins are still paid for and forgiven by God.

So, baptism is a statement to everyone who sees it that I have trusted Christ for my salvation, and I'm committed to living for Him.

Romans 6:4 (NLT)

⁴For 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.

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one!
Baptism does not "save" you; only your faith in Christ does that.

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

A blessed life:

In baptism, the believer has the triune name of the triune God placed upon them: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the name of the Godhead (one God in three persons).

The Gospels tell us to baptize believers “into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

Baptism *confirms* our position “in Christ” and *affirms* the blessings of the Father on us as his children.

A new family:

Baptism also connects us to the “body of Christ” – his people in the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.”

How are we to be baptized?

As per the example of Jesus – by being immersed in water. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word “baptize” which means “to immerse or dip under water”.

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

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The book of Acts shows us that this was the norm for every believer.

Acts 8:38,39 “Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...”

Who should be baptized?

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

When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

Acts 2:41 “Those who accepted his message were baptized.”

Acts 8:12 “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.”

We believe in baptizing children when they are old enough to understand what it means and make a personal declaration of belief.

When are we to be baptized?

Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can be, and is encouraged to be baptized.

Acts 2:41 “Those who accepted his message were baptized.”

“Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-39