

# BAPTISM: HOW YOU IDENTIFY WITH GOD'S FAMILY

## *What is the Meaning of Baptism?*

1. It illustrates Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and resurrection.

*Christ died for our sins . . . he was buried . . . and . . . he rose again.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 (KJV)

*When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.*

ROMANS 6:4 (THE MESSAGE)

*For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.*

COLOSSIANS 2:12 (GNT)

2. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.

*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (TLB/NLT)

*Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ's life, the fulfillment of God's original promise.*

GALATIANS 3:27 (THE MESSAGE)

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's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

3. It demonstrates my \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ's body, the church.

*We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which [Christ] has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part <sup>of</sup> his resurrection body.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 (THE MESSAGE)

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by \_\_\_\_\_.

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth . . . and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

MARK 1:9 (NIV)

2. Because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (GNT)

3. It shows that I really am a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Many of the [people] who heard Paul believed and were baptized.*

ACTS 18:8 (NIV)

*We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.*

1 JOHN 2:3 (NIV84)

## Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized that way.

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.*

MATTHEW 3:16 (NIV)

2. Every baptism in the \_\_\_\_\_ was by immersion.

Two examples:

*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 (NIV)

*Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water.*

JOHN 3:23 (NIV)

3. The word “baptize” means to \_\_\_\_\_ water.

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse and dip under water.”

4. **Baptism is the best symbol of a burial and resurrection!**

The founders from different denominations agree with the statement above.

**MARTIN LUTHER:** “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

**JOHN CALVIN:** “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

**JOHN WESLEY:** “We are buried with him, alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.”

**THE NEW CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA:** “The biblical form of baptism was unquestionably immersion. In the Catholic church, immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century.”

## *Who Should Be Baptized?*

Every person who has \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

*Many of them believed his message and were baptized.*

ACTS 2:41 (GNT)

*Simon believed in Christ and was baptized.*

ACTS 8:13 (NLV)

*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 (NIV)

At NPG, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At NPG, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.

## *When Should I Be Baptized?*

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!”**

*Those who believed . . . were baptized . . . that day!”*

ACTS 2:41 (NLV)

*Then Philip spoke. Starting with that passage, Philip told the official the Good News about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The official said to Philip, “Look, there’s some water. What can keep me from being baptized?” The official ordered the carriage to stop. He and Philip stepped into the water, and Philip baptized him.*

ACTS 8:35–38 (GW)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never feel “good enough!”

## *Practical Questions*

### **1. Can my family be baptized together?**

Yes! If each family member fully understands 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.

**However**, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them and delays *your* obedience.

### **2. What should I wear when I am baptized?**

(insert info)

### **3. Will I have to say anything?**

No. At the beginning of the service, one of our ministers will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. A minister will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism! You will be given a photo and certificate of your baptism.

### **4. Special needs?**

We can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

# THE LORD'S SUPPER: COMMUNION WITH GOD'S FAMILY

Jesus never asked his disciples to remember his birth. But he did instruct them to remember his death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called *ordinances*) as reminders of his death. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

## *What Is the Lord's Supper?*

To find the answer to what is the Lord's Supper, let's read, one verse at a time, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV).

1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread.*

VERSE 23

2. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

VERSE 24

3. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*In the same way . . . he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood . . . drink it, in remembrance of me."*

VERSE 25

4. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

VERSE 26

## *Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?*

Only those who are already \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 14:22-26).

*For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body [of the Lord] eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:29 (BSB)