

Why Did Jesus Get Baptized?

Matthew 3:13-17

Are there mysteries in the Bible?

God is one God in essence, power, and authority and eternally exists as three distinct co-equal persons.

These three persons are the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit.

Christians do not believe in polytheism or three different gods.

The doctrine of the Trinity is that only one God exists in three distinct persons, and all three share the exact divine nature or essence.

The Bible teaches the Trinity, even though it is difficult to explain.

We see the Trinity of the Godhead in the New Testament.

Here are just a few of the texts that mention all three members of the Godhead and imply their co-equal status.

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.

(Matthew 28:19 NLT)

The Trinitarian formula is also found in Matthew 3:16, Luke 1:35, 1 Peter 1:2, 2 Corinthians 13:14, and 1 Corinthians 12:4–6.

We also see the Trinity in the Old Testament.

In several places, God refers to Himself in plural terms. For example, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image’ ” (Gen. 1:26; see 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8).

God as Father frequently depicts Israel as God’s adopted child (Exod 4:22–23; Deut 32:6, 18–19).

The Old Testament prophesied the Messiah as being divine (Isaiah 9:6).

Two divine personifications—the Word and Wisdom—allowed New Testament writers and the church fathers to connect the incarnate Son and the hidden Trinity of the Old Testament.

I would also say that the commander of the Lord's army in Joshua 5:15 is Jesus; also, most angel of the Lord references was Jesus in the Old Testament. Jesus was the one who wrestled with Jacob in Genesis 32:23-32.

- **The Spirit hovered over the surface of the waters of creation (Gen 1:2).**
- **The Spirit empowered leaders, judges, and prophets (e.g., Num 11:16–17, 24–25; Judg 3:10; 6:34; 1 Sam 10:6, 10; Ezek 2:1–3).**

- **The Spirit rested within the nation of Israel (Isa 63:11–13; Hag 2:5).**
- **The Spirit will empower Israel’s Messiah (Isa 11:2; 42:1; 61:1–2).**

**Isaiah 48:16 refers to all three members of the Godhead:
Come closer, and listen to this. From the beginning I have
told you plainly what would happen. And now the Sovereign
Lord [Father] and his Spirit [the Holy Spirit], have sent me
with this message. [Jesus]”**

Why was Jesus baptized?

We get baptized when we decide to follow Christ.

**We realize that we cannot get into heaven because of our
family ties.**

We realize we cannot get into heaven because of our goodness.

We realize we cannot get into heaven because of our success.

Jesus came from heaven and would return to heaven. So why would He get baptized?

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” 15 But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him. (Matthew 3:13–15 NLT)

Jesus is obedient to God the Father.

Here are three reasons why Jesus was baptized:

First, Jesus’ baptism is an identification with sinners.

Second, Jesus also sets an example for us.

Third, baptism is a picture of salvation.

16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. (Matthew 3:16 NLT)

The Holy Spirit anoints.

17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” (Matthew 3:17 NLT)

And lastly, the Father speaks.

How Can You Obey?

First, as a Christian, you should be baptized.

Second, for those followers of Christ who have been baptized, live your lives as the overflow of faith in Him.

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it. As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Most of all, remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond. If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ-followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

How do you explain the Trinity?

Question 2 of 4

Why was Jesus baptized if He had no sin?

Question 3 of 4

Why do we baptize by immersion and not sprinkle?

Question 4 of 4

How are all three members of the Trinity present in Matthew 3:15–17?

