

BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD SIGN OF AN INWARD CHANGE.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Understanding baptism...

- What is baptism?

“Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer’s death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord’s Supper.”¹

Baptism does *not* wash away our sins.

1 John 1:7b

the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Acts 10:43

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

- Who can be baptized? – In the Bible, baptism always follows a personal commitment to follow Jesus. After you say “Yes” to Jesus you should say “Yes” to believer’s baptism by immersion. Why? Because it’s the pattern we see in the Bible.

Acts 2:41

*So those who received his word were **baptized**, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

Acts 8:12

*But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **baptized**, both men and women.*

Acts 8:36-38 Ethiopian Eunuch

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! **What prevents me from being baptized?**"³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, **and he baptized him.**

Acts 9:18b-19 The Apostle Paul

Then he rose **and was baptized;**

Acts 10:47-48 Cornelius the Gentile

"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"⁴⁸ **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.** Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 16:14-15 Lydia

The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.¹⁵ **And after she was baptized,** and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:33 Philippian jailer

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; **and he was baptized** at once, he and all his family.

Acts 18:8

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed** in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were **baptized.**

Acts 19:5 believers at Ephesus

On hearing this, **they were baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- How is one baptized? Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:4). Only by immersion is this made clear.
- "Baptism" is not a translated word, but a transliterated word where English letters are substituted for Greek letters. βαπτίζω = *Baptizo*. So what does the word *mean*? Baptism means...

- ① wash, purify,
- ② plunge, dip, wash, baptize.
- ③ to plunge, baptize.²

- How was Jesus baptized? By immersion!

Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Mark 1:10a

And when he [Jesus] came up out of the water,

Q: Why would we not want to be baptized like Jesus?

- What is the meaning of baptism? Shows others you believe in Jesus and are committed to following Him.
 1. Symbolizes Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
 2. Identifies us with the message and person of Jesus Christ.
 3. It is an honor to be baptized.
- What should be the motivation of baptism? To be a witness for Jesus Christ.

If you have the chance, why not seize the opportunity to be baptized like Jesus?

Q: How do I respond?

- Connect Card: "I received Christ."
- Connect Card: "I would like to be baptized." Place in the buckets by the doors or at the Next Steps Center.
- Website: <http://gogracefellowship.org> "My response."
- App: "My response."
- Speak with a staff member.

¹ *The Baptist Faith and Message (2000)*. Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

² W. Arndt, W., F. W. Danker, W. Bauer, & F. W. Gingrich, 3rd ed. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 164-165.