

Believers Baptism

Who can be baptized?

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly **received** his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Acts 8:12 But when they **believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were **baptized**.

Acts 8: ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being **baptized**?” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you **believe** with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I **believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Acts 16: ³⁰ “Sirs, **what must I do to be saved**?” ³¹ So they said, “**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were **baptized**.

All of these Scriptures have the same pattern: **Believe – Be Baptized**. So, back to the question; ‘Who can be baptized?’ The answer is clear, only those who believe can be baptized. This is why we teach and practice "Believers" baptism - Adult baptism. Which brings us to tis next question.

<p>What did NT Candidates for baptism believe about Jesus Christ?</p>
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Jesus is God

John 1: ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the will of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

Jesus is the God of miracles

John 20: ³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

The authority and power to perform miracles demonstrates that Jesus is God.

Jesus is the God of the resurrection

I Corinthians 15: ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus are absolutely essential. These are not merely important doctrines, they are life changing beliefs. Without His death we have no forgiveness. Without His resurrection we have no hope beyond the grave.

Jesus is the God of Salvation

The word "Gospel" means "good news". Before you can be baptized you must believe the good news about salvation.

Mark 1:15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Baptism is a confession of faith in this gospel. It is our way of bearing testimony that we have embraced the gospel.

Who can be baptized? The Bible teaches that we must BELIEVE before we are BAPTIZED. What exactly must we believe?

Jesus is God with us. He is the God of miracles, the God of the resurrection and the God of Salvation.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward experience. When we place our trust in Christ as Savior, something happens to us on the inside that no one can see.

In the same way that wearing a wedding band represents the invisible vows of marriage, Baptism represents the invisible vow of allegiance to Christ.

What, exactly is the inward experience made visible by Baptism?

Colossians 2:12 Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were **buried** with Him through **baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness** of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become **new**.

Romans 13:14 But **put on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Galatians 2:20 I have been **crucified** with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were **baptized** into Christ have **put on** Christ.

Baptism is our way of saying to God and man that we intend to put to death our former sinful and destructive behaviors and lifestyle. We intend to put

off the old and put on a whole new way of living in triumphant, resurrection victory over sin.

Going under the waters of Baptism is a symbolic statement of drowning – dying to the old. Coming up from the water is a symbolic statement of resurrection. It speaks of our desire to live a new life, marked with victory over sin - a life of holiness and purity that sets us apart from others.

Baptism is symbolic of putting OFF the OLD Life and putting ON the NEW Life.

How should we baptize?

The New Testament was originally written in Greek and later translated into English. We get the English words 'baptize' from the Greek verb βαπτίζω (baptid-zo) which is most commonly defined as to dip repeatedly - to immerse or to submerge.

The Greek word βαπτίζω was often used to describe the process of dying material in different colors. Which makes the baptism of Lydia (Acts 16:15) rather significant. Lydia was a dyer of purple. She used a rare and expensive dye to change white cotton to a brilliant shade of purple. To do so required the material to be fully immersed in the dye.

When a cloth is fully **immersed** in dye, the cloth takes on the **characteristics** of the dye.

When we are fully **immersed** in Christ, we take on the **characteristics** of Christ.

Jesus was immersed in water

We read in Matthew 3:16 that Jesus was baptized by John and afterward that “he went up out of the water” (Matthew 3:16). Taken together, the word used for baptism and the phrase “He went up out of the water” suggests that Jesus was fully immersed when He was baptized.

The Ethiopian was immersed in water

We read in Acts 8:36-38 that he “went down into the water.” (Acts 8:36-38) Once again, the term for baptism and the phrase ‘he went down into water’ implies full immersion.

There are several Scriptures that speak of being baptized in something other than water. When we get baptized we also become immersed

- **In Christ** (Galatians 3:27)
- **Into His death.** (Matthew 20:22-23, Luke 12:50, Romans 6:3)
- **In the Holy Spirit** (Mark 1:8, Matthew 3:11)
- **Into the body of believers** (1 Corinthians 12:13)

In all of these cases, the idea of being fully immersed is clearly involved. A person cannot be partially dipped or sprinkled:

- In Christ
- Into His death

- In the Holy Spirit
- Into the body of believers

When we baptize by immersion we provide an opportunity for people to identify with death by coming dangerously close to it. It's a helpful reminder that Christ experienced death for us.

At baptism we are taking the old sinful nature and burying it. When the candidate for baptism is brought up from under the water, they inhale a fresh breath of air and enter into life – a new life in Christ. The old is gone, all things are made new (II Corinthians 5:17).

This is why we teach and practice baptism by immersion.

Why should we be baptized?

Baptism does not save us.

Some would suggest that we must be baptized in order to be saved from God's wrath and to ensure that we have a place in heaven. For this reason some church traditions baptize infants. It is a means to insure salvation.

However, we have already discovered the importance of faith – belief, coming before baptism. It is faith in Christ alone that saves us. We cannot earn God's favor by works of our own flesh. If we could somehow earn the right to heaven, there

would be no need for Christ to die on a cross for our sins. Only through belief/faith in Christ can one find favor with God and have assurance of salvation.

Ephesians 2: ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Consider also that Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be with Him in paradise despite the fact that it was not possible for this man to be baptized.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

The Apostle Paul said:

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

This is a significant Scripture. If baptism could save us, Paul would never been sent to preach the gospel. The cross of Christ would have no meaning – no effect, if we could be saved by baptism.

So, the question remains. If we don't need baptism to save us, 'Why should we be baptized?'

We get baptized because:

- Jesus, Himself was baptized (Matthew 3:16). Surely a true disciple-follower would want to **follow** His example.
- Jesus **submitted** Himself to come under the authority of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16). Surely a true disciple – follower would likewise want to live under the authority of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- Jesus commanded that we be baptized (Matthew 28:19-20) Surely a true disciple – follower would want to **obey** that command.
- Jesus died, was buried and rose from the grave (1 Corinthians 15:4). Surely a true disciple – follower should **live** no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again (2 Corinthians 5:15).
- Jesus was the recipient of God’s favor when He was baptized (Matthew 3:17). Surely a true disciple – follower would want to live a life that is **well pleasing** to God (2 Corinthians 5:9, Philippians 4:18, Colossians 1:10).
- Jesus endured the shame of the cross (**Hebrews 12:2**). Surely a true disciple – follower would **not be ashamed** to call Him Lord

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, having called on the name of the Lord, who has washed away your sins.