

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

“WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED?”

Every person who has believed in Christ.

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized... Acts 2:41

Simon himself believed and was baptized... Acts 8:13

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

“WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?”

1. To follow the example set by Christ.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commanded it.

Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’ Matt. 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I am a follower of Jesus Christ.

...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands. 1 John 2:3

“WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?”

1. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.

Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again. 1 Cor. 15:3-4

For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Col. 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun! 2 Cor. 5:17

By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life! Rom. 6:4

We do not believe in “baptismal regeneration”; that is, baptism does not make you a believer — rather, it is meant to show that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith

in Christ does that (“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not because of works, so that no one can boast.”). Baptism is like a wedding ring — it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

“WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?”

1. That is what the word means.

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

2. Every baptism in the Bible appears to have been by immersion.

...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

3. Jesus was apparently baptized by immersion.

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

4. Many significant Christian pastors and theologians from the past agree:

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...“Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

5. It best symbolizes spiritual cleansing and newness of life experienced by those who have trusted in Christ.