

baptism basics

Baptism is for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ:

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one." Romans 3:10

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. . . . Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. Acts 16:30-33

When we become a believer, Christ baptizes us with His Holy Spirit. This makes us clean, makes us a part of Christ and a part of His body, the church:

"I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Matthew 3:11

But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13

Being baptized with water is a public way of symbolizing what has happened to us spiritually:

And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clear conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:21

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised

from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Romans 6:3-4

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

So, we are baptized to:

- obey Christ, who instructed that we should be baptized.
- publicly declare that our old life is dead and that we now live a new life in fellowship with Christ and His church.

Common Questions:

Do I have to be baptized to be saved?

No. We are saved only through faith in Jesus Christ who saves us by His grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). We aren't baptized **to** be saved, we are baptized **because** we're saved.

How many times can I be baptized?

Baptism is intended to be a one-time act symbolizing the one-time act of God saving us. If you were previously baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ (for the reasons explained above) you don't need to be re-baptized.

What if I was baptized as an infant?

Baptism is for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Obviously, infants can't do that. So, if you were "baptized" as an infant and are now a believer in Jesus Christ, you should be baptized as we are instructed in Scripture.

Do I have to be immersed? What about sprinkling?

The Bible never gives a complete description of how baptism takes place. The language used seems to indicate immersion. We believe that immersion also best fits the symbolism of baptism as described in passages such as Romans 6:3-4. However, the method of baptism is not what's important. The act of being baptized in water is not even itself what is truly crucial. Baptism is significant because it publicly symbolizes what God has done spiritually in our lives. We show

our obedience to Christ and our commitment to Him and His body by being baptized in water.
The method is not the primary concern.