

## WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

Jesus commanded us saying:

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19 (NIV)*

Why did Jesus think it was so important to be baptized? The reason is because it is a symbol of our relationship with Him. Have you ever seen a mime presentation that tells a story or illustrates a truth? Baptism illustrates what happened in your life when you accepted Jesus as your Savior.

*“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)*

When you accepted Jesus, your old nature died (that nature that made you sin) and a new nature was born (*read Romans 6:5-6*). The Bible calls this being born again (*John 3:3*).

Baptism illustrates this miracle of new birth. When we go into the water, that symbolizes the death of our old nature, and when we come out of the water, that

illustrates the new birth. Only people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior should be baptized because baptism will not mean anything to those who have not been born again. Baptism does not save a person, it is just a symbol that you have been saved.

The word “baptism” comes from an ancient Greek word that means to immerse. Therefore, baptism is the immersion of the believer under water. Some churches practice the pouring or sprinkling of water, but this does not fully illustrate the death and rebirth of the person who is saved.

## WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

If you have accepted Jesus into your heart, and you understand what baptism means and symbolizes, you should do it as soon as possible. Baptism is made available many times throughout the year. The bulletin will announce the next baptism. Baptism is an important step for every person who has accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord because it is a public proclamation of the person's salvation through Christ Jesus.

Acts 8:36-37 illustrates the importance of understanding salvation before baptism:

*“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?’ Then Phillip 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.’”*

## HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY BAPTISM?

Sign up for baptism the next time it is announced. Complete this application at least one week prior to the next baptism and turn it in to the office.

Please arrive 30 minutes early and meet in the Sanctuary dressed for baptism. Jeans and T-shirts are fine, but ladies should not wear a white or light-colored T-shirt that might become translucent when wet, even if swim wear is worn underneath. Please wear conservative clothing.

Bring a towel, a large plastic bag, and a change of clothes.

Since restrooms are unattended, please leave items of value (such as watches and rings) with family or friends in the Sanctuary.

**I AM A BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN AND I WISH TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY BEING BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION IN WATER AS HE COMMANDS.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:  
Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

When did you receive Christ as your personal Savior?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you attending a local fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of spiritual background did you have before coming to saving faith in Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your life before Christ.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you discover you needed a Savior?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How Jesus has changed your life?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you know you have eternal life?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

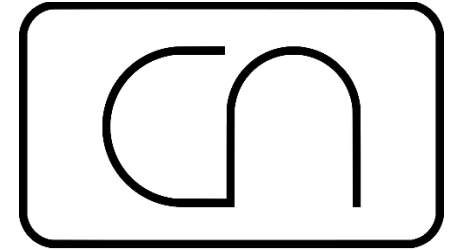
What have you learned about Jesus since you have been saved?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does John 3:16 mean to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does Ephesians 2:8-10 mean to you?  
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What does baptism mean to you?  
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What would you say to someone who is thinking about becoming a Christian?  
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# **Baptism Application**