



## Baptism

### Why should you get baptized?

- To follow the example of Jesus

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. (Matthew 3:13)*

John's baptism was different from the Jewish baptism of that day. It was only done once, and it was more than just a cleansing. It marked the beginning of one's repentance and faith.

"Jesus might well have been up there in front standing with John and calling on sinners to repent. Instead he was down there with the sinners..making himself one with them." (Leon Morris)

- To follow the command of Jesus

As the risen Lord, Jesus sent out the church to make and baptize disciples.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18-20)*

- To follow the New Testament pattern

The rest of the New Testament shows the church fulfilling this commission. (example: Acts)

### What is the meaning of baptism?

- It symbolizes that we are united with what Jesus did when he died for our sins and rose again.

*...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)*

- It shows that our sins are washed away by Christ.

*Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name. (Acts 22:16)*

### Why be baptized by immersion?

- The Greek word for baptism means "to plunge, dip, or immerse" something in water.
- This is how people seem to have been baptized in the New Testament (Mark 1:5-10, Acts 8:36-39).
- It best captures the symbolism of baptism.
- The early church's normal practice in the early centuries was immersion, with exceptions for lack of water and sickbed baptisms.

### Who should be baptized?

Those who profess faith in Christ.

*Those who accepted his message were baptized. (Acts 2:41)*

Some believe that infants can be baptized. They generally see baptism as similar to circumcision, which was a physical way of entering God's covenant community. In the New Testament, the covenant community is those who have saving faith - the church.

*...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith. (Colossians 2:12; see also Galatians 3:26-27)*

Baptism was universally administered to Christians in the early church. There were no unbaptized Christians!

### How old should children be before they are baptized?

Children should be old enough to give a believable profession of faith.

### When should you be baptized?

In the early church, people were baptized as soon as they believed. It is the starting point of the Christian life.

"With so great simplicity, without pomp, without any considerable novelty of preparation, finally, without expense, a man is dipped in water, and amid the utterance of some few words, is sprinkled, and then rises again." (Tertullian)