

The goal of this brochure is to help answer a few questions you may have:

- * What is the significance of baptism?
 - * Who should be baptized?
 - * Why should you be baptized?
 - * How should you be baptized?

The Bible teaches that baptism is the immersion or dipping of a Christ follower in water, identifying with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism is administered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For an in-depth look at baptism, the following passages will be helpful as you study this important step of faith:

- * Matthew 28:19-20
 - * Acts 2:38, 41
 - * Acts 8:12, 36-38
 - * Acts 10:47-48
 - * Romans 6:1-11

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PROCLAIM
YOUR

faith

understanding
water baptism

the significance of baptism

We believe baptism is an outward physical demonstration of an inward spiritual baptism by the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is not a means of salvation nor is it a necessity for salvation; it is simply a testimony of salvation. Baptism can be viewed in two ways:

* 1. It's a "Pledge of Allegiance" to God. It is a believer obeying God's command to be baptized following salvation (Acts 2:41). Baptism identifies yourself to the church and is a public proclamation to the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

* 2. The more important implication of baptism is as a picture or symbol of what occurs at the moment of salvation. It is the way that we identify with what Jesus accomplished on the cross. It is an outward picture of an inward reality. Romans 6:1-11 vividly explains the process and significance of our spiritual baptism. The physical act of baptism represents that spiritual reality.

who should be baptized

The New Testament teaches that baptism is for believers. Baptism is to follow salvation, not precede it. Notice, in each of the following passages, baptism clearly occurs after salvation:

* Acts 2:41-42, Acts 8:12

* Acts 8:36-37, Acts 10:48

Therefore, we believe that every follower of Christ is to be baptized.

why should you get baptized

The Bible provides two definitive reasons why followers of Jesus Christ should be baptized:

1. Jesus Commanded It
* Matthew 28:18-20
2. The Early Church Practiced It
* Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48

The importance of baptism in the Bible is unquestioned. Christ began his earthly ministry with His baptism by John the Baptist, and baptizing new believers was an important part of the Great Commission.

how should you get baptized

We believe baptism is to be done by dipping or immersing into water. There are four main reasons for this position:

1. The Greek term for baptize (baptizo) literally means to submerge or immerse.
2. This form of baptism (immersion) was used by the Apostles and disciples of Christ and by the first churches, without any known exception.
3. Sprinkling, pouring, or any other method of baptism does not carry the best picture of the spiritual reality of baptism (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).
4. The Scriptures very clearly express immersion.
 - Mark 1:9-10—"coming up out of the water."
 - Matt. 3:6—"in the Jordan River" indicates immersion.
 - John 3:23—Notice the need for "plenty of water."

a summary of baptism

IT'S AN
OUTWARD
SIGN OF
INWARD
CHANGE

IT'S A
PICTURE
OF THE
REDEMPTION

IT'S A
PUBLIC
DISPLAY
OF
YOUR
FAITH

BAPTISM
IS NOT A
CONDITION
OF
SALVATION

EVERYONE
BORN AGAIN
SHOULD BE
BAPTIZED

BAPTISM IS
NOT FOR
INFANTS

JESUS
COMMENDED
BAPTISM

BAPTISM BY
IMMERSION
IS BIBLICAL