

Baptism is one of the first steps of obedience that Jesus commands for all who believe in Him. Some people may argue that baptism is unnecessary or unimportant. But, dear friend, do not take this lightly. Even if it seems unimportant to you, it is highly significant to the One who gave the command—our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why should we be baptized?

□ Because it is the Lord's command.

Baptism is not optional; it is part of the Great Commission Jesus gave to His followers:

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

□ Because Jesus Himself was baptized as an example for us.

Although He was without sin, Jesus chose to be baptized to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). If He, the sinless Son of God, submitted to baptism, how much more should we who have been saved by grace?

Matthew 3:13-15 (ESV)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented.

□ Because baptism is an outward sign of an inner reality.

Baptism is a public declaration that you have been united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. It symbolizes that you have died to sin and now live a new life in Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Who should be baptized?

☐ Those who believe and repent.

Baptism is for those who have consciously placed their faith in Jesus Christ and have turned away from sin. It is never presented in the New Testament as something done for infants or those who have not personally believed.

Acts 2:41 (ESV)

So those who received his word were baptized, and there

were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 8:12 (ESV)

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

When should a person be baptized?

□ As soon as possible after believing.

In the New Testament, people were baptized shortly after believing in Jesus. There was no long waiting period or requirement for advanced spiritual maturity. Baptism marked the beginning of their new life.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:33 (ESV)

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

What is the correct mode of baptism?

Baptism by full immersion in water.

The biblical pattern shows people going down into the water and coming up again—symbolizing burial and resurrection.

John 3:23 (ESV)

John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized.

Acts 8:38-39 (ESV)

And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away.

□ Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is consistent with baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, because Jesus embodies the fullness of

the Godhead (Colossians 2:9).

Acts 10:48 (ESV)

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 19:5 (ESV)

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

What if I was baptized as an infant or not by immersion?

You should be baptized again in the biblical way.

If you were baptized before you personally believed or not by full

immersion, it is right and proper to be baptized according to the teaching and example found in Scripture.

Where can I be baptized.

If you are saved and ready to take this step, look for a Bible-believing church that practices baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ. If you need help arranging for baptism, feel free to contact us:

☐ +255 693 036 618 / +255 789 001 312

Scriptures to remember about baptism

☐ Colossians 2:12 (ESV) — “Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

☐ Galatians 3:27 (ESV) — “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

May the Lord richly bless you as you take this step of faith.

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