

“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.” (Colossians 2:12)

"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"(1 Peter 3:21)

Who is eligible for baptism?

Anyone who has repented from their sin, placed their trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sin, and is ready to walk in obedience to Him is eligible for baptism.

Should I be baptized?

If you are a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you should be baptized. Christ commanded believers to be baptized, the Apostles instituted baptism, and the church practiced baptism. Although baptism does not save you from your sin, it would certainly be sinful to neglect it.

What if I have been baptized in another church?

Baptism has no correlation to a particular church but rather to the whole body of Christ. If you have partaken in a believer's baptism, there is no need to be re-baptized. If you have been baptized before you became a believer, you should take part in the believer's baptism.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

BAPTISM

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ABOUT BAPTISM

"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."
(Matthew 28:19-20)

Water baptism is a public, outward testimony that indicates a personal, inward faith. It gives evidence of the inner change that has already occurred in the believer's life when he or she was "born again" through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism identifies the believer with the message of the gospel, the Person of Jesus Christ, and other believers. It associates the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and signifies the believer's death to the old life and his or her resurrection as a new creation in Christ (see Romans 6:1-8; Colossians 2:12).

We are to be baptized because Jesus Christ commanded it (Matthew 28:19) and because we love the Lord. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Water baptism is not an act of salvation but an act of obedience.

1. The New Testament opens with John the Baptist baptizing for the repentance of sin. "John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." (Mark 1:4-5 ESV)

John's baptism is a baptism of repentance, preparing the people to receive the Messiah. Repentance throughout the Old Testament carried the idea of a 'changing a way of thinking or attitude' a 'turning away' from sinful thinking and practices. With repentance, there were often prayers of remorse and renunciation of sin. Outward signs of repentance were often the same signs of mourning; these included weeping, tearing of clothes, and putting dirt and ashes upon the head. John was calling the people to repent so there would be no obstacles in receiving the Messiah. Baptism with water was a sign of this repentance and renunciation of sin in the people's life by being submerged in water.

2. Jesus institutes a different baptism "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." (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV).

A believer's baptism is about being identified with Christ. It is a sign of fellowship with Him in His death and resurrection, being engrafted into Him, remission of sin, and walking in the newness of life.

3. The early church practiced Baptism "Now, when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 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....So those who received His word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:37-38, 41) See also: Acts 8:36-38, Acts 9:17-19a, Acts 10:45-48

"Repent...be baptized...and you will receive..." This is the pattern of the book of Acts. It is summed by Paul in Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27)

4. Those who submit to baptism are buried with Christ and raised to walk in new life. "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." (Romans 6:3-4)