



## What is the difference between child dedication and baptism?

### Child Dedication is:

- Parents offering their child to the Lord.
- A promise of parents to rear their child for the glory of God.
- A chance for parents to recognize God's gift of a child to them.
- Parents declaring their intent to raise their child in a Christian environment.
- A challenge to parents to lay a Biblical foundation of guidance and support.

### Child Dedication is NOT:

- Parents making a decision of salvation for their child.
- A sacrament that imparts salvation or a covering for sin to a child.
- A baptism.

References: Mark 10:13, Psalm 127:3, Deuteronomy 6:5-7, Ephesians 6:4

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Contribute*

# Water Baptism

*"Riverside exists so that people will find and follow Jesus."*

## What is water baptism?

1. Water baptism is a ceremony that symbolizes the beginning of our spiritual lives.
2. It is a way to say goodbye to our life outside of Christ.

*“Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”* Romans 6:1-4 (NLT)

## Who is eligible for water baptism?

1. The New Testament consistently speaks of water baptism in the context of a saving faith in Christ.
2. Only those who have committed their lives to Christ are to be baptized.

*“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 (NLT)

*“Anyone who believes me and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe me will be condemned.”*  
Mark 16:16 (CEV)

*“...Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* Acts 2:38 (NLT)

*“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”*  
Acts 2:41 (NIV)

*“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”* Acts 8:12 (NIV)

## Does water baptism save me?

Baptism does not save you. Only your faith in Christ saves you. Baptism simply demonstrates that you are already a believer and follower of Jesus.

*“God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it..”* Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

## Why should I be baptized?

1. We believe that water baptism is one of the two ordinances or commands (the Lord’s Supper being the other) given to the church by Christ.
2. They are understood to be memorials, a way of remembering our connection with the sacrifice of Christ.
3. There is no saving power in simply participating in the event.
4. Any spiritual benefit comes out of the faithful obedience of our hearts.

## How am I to be baptized?

1. “Baptize” comes from the Greek word *baptizo* which was used throughout the ancient world to convey the idea of an object being dipped or plunged.
2. Baptism by full immersion in water is the mode that best conveys the sense of this term.

References: Acts 8:36-38, Matthew 3:13-16

## Should I ever be rebaptized?

There is nothing in Scripture to prohibit being rebaptized, although several reasons may cause you to want to be baptized again:

1. After having returned from an extended time of disobedience to Christ.
2. Upon recognizing that you have entered into a new dimension in your walk with Christ, and you feel it calls for an outward expression of your new commitment to Him.
3. If you were “baptized” as an infant and are now desiring to be baptized again, having made a new commitment to Christ as an adult.

What is important is to answer the question: “Is the Holy Spirit asking me to do this?” It can be very meaningful if it is the result of the Spirit’s prompting.

## What do I need to bring to the water baptism service?

1. A testimony of your faith in Jesus.
2. A towel and change of clothes.

You will need to wear a modest bathing suit underneath your clothing.