

# why should I be baptized?

## 1. To follow the Example Set By Christ

*"Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9*

## 2. Because Christ Commanded It

*"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19-20*

## 3. It Demonstrates That I Really Am a Believer

*"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8*

# what is the meaning of baptism?

## 1. It Illustrates Christ's Death and Resurrection

*"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... And He rose again."*

*"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Colossians 2:12*

## 2. It Illustrates My New Life as a Christian

*"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and the new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*"By our baptism then, we are buried with Him and shared in His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!" Romans 6:4*

**Baptism does not make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart to another person.**

# why baptism by immersion?

## 1. Because Jesus Was Baptized By Immersion

*"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16*

## 2. Every Baptism In The Bible Was By Immersion

*(Example) "...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39*

## 3. The Literal Meaning For "baptize" Is "to Immerse Under Water."

The Founders of Denomination Agree:

Martin Luther... "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies." (Lutheran Church)

John Calvin... "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church." (Presbyterian Church)

John Wesley... "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church." (Methodist Church)

# when should I be baptized?

## As Soon As You Believe!

*"Those who believed... were baptized that day!" Acts 2:41*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

**We wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.**

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children.

This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. Like a bride and groom, no one can say "I DO" on their behalf.