

Why are Believers Baptized

1. WHY BE BAPTIZED? - Jesus commanded us 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
(MATTHEW 28:19-20)

Baptism is an act of obedience. We show our love for Jesus by obeying His commands.

Those who accepted his message were baptized... (ACTS 2:41)

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me." (JOHN 14:21)

2. WHAT IS BAPTISM? - Baptism is an outward expression of our personal identification with Jesus in His teachings, death, burial and resurrection. It symbolizes our death to our old life and beginning of a new life in Christ Jesus when we become a follower of Jesus.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (ROMANS 6:4)

3. HOW AM I BAPTIZED? - The word "baptidzo" in the original Bible (written in Greek) means "to immerse". Baptism is complete immersion of a person in water.

At the time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John [the Baptist] in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
(MARK 1:9-11)

And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. (ACTS 8:38)

4. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED? - Baptism is to be done soon after you become a follower of Jesus Christ. A person must become a Christian before baptism.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" (ACTS 8:36)

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. (Acts 16:30-33)

5. WHAT IF I REFUSE TO BE BAPTIZED? - You are disobeying God's commands.

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. (JAMES 4:17)

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