

# Water Baptism

*According to the New Testament*

## The Meaning of Baptism

It's a symbol of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

*"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3,4)*

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

It's a symbol of your new life as a follower of Jesus.

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

*"By our baptism then we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might live a new life." (Romans 6:4)*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer (follower of Jesus). It shows that you already are one. In other words, baptism does not save you. Only the grace of God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, saves you. It's a gift from God, (Ephesians 2:8-9). Baptism, then, is like a wedding ring---it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart and mind.

**Who should be baptized?** *Every person who has made the decision to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and accepted Him as their Savior.*

*"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized." (Acts 2:41)*

*"But when they believed Phillip as he preached the Good News...they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:12)*

*"Simon himself believed and was baptized..." (Acts 8:13)*

The one requirement for baptism is belief (salvation) in Christ Jesus. For this reason we choose to dedicate infants or young children rather than baptize them until they are old enough to understand their personal belief in Christ.

## Why be baptized?

Because you want to follow Christ's example.

*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9)*

Because Christ commanded it.

*"Jesus said, 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I've commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Because it's an outward sign of an inner belief

*"...many of the Corinthians heard him (Paul), believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)*

Because obeying Christ's command shows you a follower of Him.

*"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3)*

### **How should I be baptized?**

Like Jesus was baptized --- by being immersed in water.

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

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion (under water).

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

The word for baptism, (*baptizo*), literally means to dip under water, to immerse.

It's the most complete picture of identifying your life in Christ, picturing His death, burial, and resurrection.

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

### **Can my family be baptized together?**

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. it's a wonderful expression of commitment together.

### **How do I take the next steps toward being baptized?**

Check out the website, weekly bulletin, or the Good Times for the next baptism date and mark your calendar.

When it's open, please register for the next baptism. ([www.nccccconnections.org](http://www.nccccconnections.org))

Commit to attending the baptism orientation, which is on Palm Sunday for the Easter Sunrise Service beach baptism, or on the same dates for the summer and winter pool baptisms.

Step out in faith and obedience with the wonderful act of baptism.