

What is Baptism?

- Symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our identification with Him

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 (Rom 6:3-4).

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:3-4).

- Immersion in water (*baptizo*)

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him (Matt 3:16).

- Public expression of our faith in God, not the means by which it is achieved (non-salvific)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Why Should You Be Baptized?

- Commanded and exemplified by Jesus

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 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" (Matt 28:18-20).

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him (Matt 3:13).

- Unashamed demonstration of identity and faith that glorifies God and shares the Good News

For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels (Mark 8:38).

Who Should Be Baptized?

- Anyone who identifies as a follower of Jesus, receiving Him as Savior and trusting in Him as Lord

So those who received His word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41).

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46).

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

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am" (John 13:13).

- As soon as possible following belief

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36).

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8).