

# BAPTISM

## A. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

**1) It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.** (Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Colossians 2:12)

**Baptism is also a symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection.**

*"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Romans 6:3-5)*

**2) It illustrates my new life as a Christian.**

Baptism doesn't 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 inward commitment you made in your heart.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

**3) It demonstrates my incorporation into Christ's body, the Church.**

Baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual truth. It represents what happened the moment God brought you into his family. Baptism doesn't make you a member of God's family; but it's a celebration of your inclusion in God's family, the Church.

*"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." (1 Corinthians 12:13)*

## B. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

**1) To follow Christ's example**

*"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" (Mark 1:9-11)*

**2) To obey Christ's command**

*"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." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

**3) To follow the pattern of New Testament believers**

*"... Many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8b)*



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## C. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has **believed** in Jesus Christ.

(Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12)

*“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)*

## D. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

**As soon as you have believed** (Acts 8:35-38)

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 “ready.”

## E. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

- 1) Because **Jesus** was baptized that way (Matthew 3:16)
- 2) **Every baptism** in the Bible was by immersion (e.g. Mark 1:9-10, John 3:23, Acts 8:38-39)
- 3) The word “baptize” means to **immerse** into water.  
The Greek word baptizo means to immerse and dip under water.”
- 4) Immersion best illustrates the truth symbol of **death and resurrection** with Christ. (Romans 6)

The founders from different denominations agree:

**Martin Luther:** “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

**John Calvin:** “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

**John Wesley:** “We are buried with him, alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.”

## F. NEXT STEP?

To join the next baptism, please contact [baptism@newstorychurch.com](mailto:baptism@newstorychurch.com)