

WATER BAPTISM

For those who believe in Jesus Christ, water baptism is a public expression of our faith in Jesus Christ. We unashamedly make our public confession that Jesus Christ is our Savior and the Lord of our lives.

In water baptism, we will be fully immersed in water and then raised out of the water. This represents what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. Water Baptism is a physical act that represents the passing away of our old life and the beginning of a new life in Jesus Christ.

WHAT DOES "BAPTISM" MEAN?

The word **"baptism"** comes from the Greek word **baptizō**. It means **"to immerse," "to dip,"** or **"to put into."**

Being immersed in water represents that we identify ourselves with the death and burial of Jesus Christ. Our old life - once characterized by sin, shame, regret, and separation from God, is no longer our identity. It has all been buried.

When we are raised up out of the water, it represents our identification with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus Christ died for us on the cross, our sins are forgiven. And because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, we receive new life.

Water baptism is a beautiful symbol of our new relationship with God.

Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we become children of God and receive the gift of eternal life. We are invited into a close, personal, and deep relationship with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

This relationship with God begins in our life here on earth and continues for all eternity.

TWO PICTURES OF WATER BAPTISM

These two pictures help us understand what it means to identify and connect ourselves with the cross of Jesus Christ.

1. A FUNERAL

BAPTISM IS LIKE A FUNERAL OF OUR OLD WAY OF LIFE - OUR OLD SELF.

As Christians, sin, shame, regret, and failure no longer define us.

When we are immersed in water, it represents that our old life has been crucified and buried with Jesus Christ.

Our past is dead and gone. It is no longer our identity.

2. A NEW BIRTH

BAPTISM ALSO REPRESENTS BEING BORN AGAIN. IT SIGNIFIES THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE.

Just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, we are raised up from the water and begin to walk in a new life with Jesus Christ.

When we come up out of the water, we understand that our sins have been forgiven and that we have been given a new identity in Jesus Christ.

We are not trying to become a better version of who we used to be. In Jesus Christ, we have been born again and everything has been made completely new.

In other words, baptism represents both the end of our old life and the beginning of a new life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 powerfully expresses the meaning of water baptism:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

WHAT WATER BAPTISM IS NOT

THE ACT OF BAPTISM ITSELF DOES NOT SAVE US.

We do not receive salvation simply by being baptized. We are saved by believing in Jesus Christ and trusting in what He accomplished for us through His death on the cross and His resurrection.

BAPTISM IS NOT A REWARD FOR BECOMING A "GOOD CHRISTIAN."

We do not have to reach a certain level of spiritual maturity before being baptized. Baptism is the outward expression of our faith in Jesus Christ. It is an act of obedience that follows our decision to believe in and follow Jesus Christ.

THE WATER ITSELF DOES NOT WASH AWAY OUR SINS.

The water is a symbol. It is Jesus Christ who forgives and cleanses us from our sins. Baptism is an opportunity to visibly express what God has already done in our lives through our faith in Jesus Christ.

OUR NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

Baptism is a deeply meaningful expression of a life lived with Jesus Christ.

Through baptism, we can see with our eyes and experience physically what Jesus Christ has done for us. Our old life has been buried, and we have been raised to live a new life.

We now belong to Jesus Christ. Of course, being water baptized does not mean that we will never experience suffering or struggles again. We still live in a broken world where pain, difficulties, and suffering are real. But **water baptism shows us that we no longer have to walk life alone. We have been put into Jesus Christ and live in Him.**

In Jesus Christ we have hope. We have joy. We have a new purpose for our life. We have a new identity. We trust that God will continue to be with us. God is walking with us every day of our life.

ARE YOU READY TO BE BAPTIZED?

If you believe in Jesus Christ and have not yet been baptized, may you consider taking this important next step of faith. You do not need to wait until you become a "better Christian." You also do not need to understand everything. As long as we live in this imperfect world, we may never become a perfect Christian.

Water Baptism is not only for people who have reached a certain level of spiritual maturity. It is a joyful response for someone who has chosen to trust Jesus Christ and follow Him.

Jesus Christ said: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*
— **Matthew 11:28**

Jesus Christ invites you to come to Him just as you are.

If you believe in Jesus Christ, water baptism is a wonderful opportunity to publicly declare:
"I belong to Jesus Christ. My old life has passed away and I have been made new. I have chosen to follow Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord."

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING BAPTIZED, PLEASE SPEAK WITH ONE OF THE PASTORS OR LEADERS OF YOUR CHURCH.

IMPORTANT BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT WATER BAPTISM

Matthew 28:18–20

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

Acts 2:37–41

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 8:35–39

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 16:25–34

Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. He was baptized at once, he and all his family.

Romans 6:3–5, 8

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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.