



BAPTISM

WHO GETS BAPTIZED?

Jesus commanded the apostles to baptize those who became his disciples (Matthew 28:19). A disciple is one who receives and trusts in the gospel of Jesus death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). He is saved by believing in this message of Jesus sacrificial death and resurrection from the grave. We are not saved by baptism. We are only saved through faith in the sacrificial blood offering of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23-26). Baptism is then an outward, physical symbol of our heart belief in Jesus Christ and His work that provides our salvation.

WHY SHOULD WE GET BAPTIZED?

We should be baptized because Christ set the example (Matthew 3:15-16). Since He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness then so should we. We should be baptized because Christ commanded it. It is part of Christ's marching orders to His Church to baptize those who become disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism is an act of obedience that brings joy to the believer (John 15:7). We should be baptized as an outward, public testimony. It is a powerful open witness that we have taken our stand with the Lord (Matthew 10:32).

WHEN SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

We should be baptized after we have been saved. Baptism always follows the decision to begin trusting in Jesus Christ, according to the New Testament accounts. Philip insisted that the Ethiopian could only be baptized if he believed with all his heart (Acts 8:36-37). The Philippian jailer was baptized after the word of the Lord was spoken to him, in response to his desperate desire to be saved (Acts 16:27-34). The baptisms recorded in the Book of Acts were linked to the beginning of their salvation experience.