



NORTHSIDE  
CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

BAPTISM CLASSES

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# WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

**Christian baptism finds its origin in the command of Christ after His triumphant resurrection from the grave.**

Scripture:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” **Mark 16:16**

## Definition: “baptize”

The word “baptize” (English) or baptidzo (Greek) means “to dip”, “to overwhelm”, “to plunge”, “to submerge.” It means “to cause something to be dipped” or “to immerse something beneath the surface of water, or some other fluid” (In most cases the act of immersion is temporary and not permanent).

We are commanded of Christ to “baptize” believers. If the Greek word that is used here were translated instead of transliterated, the command in the New Testament would read as follows:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **immersing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

# MODULE 2

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WHY BAPTISM?

# WHY IS THE BELIEVER TO BE BAPTIZED?

**Because Jesus commanded believers be baptized and, therefore, it is a matter of obedience.**

Scripture:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 28:19**

# WHY BAPTISM?

**Because the apostles commanded converts to be baptized  
(Acts 2:37-39; 10:44-48)**

Scripture:

Peter replied, “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.” **Acts 2:38**

MODULE 2

# WHY BAPTISM?

**Because Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness as an example to us. (Matthew 3:13- 17)**

Scripture:

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” **Matthew 3:13- 17**

MODULE 2

# WHY BAPTISM?

**Because we validate our faith by our obedience to the Word of God. (James 2:17-18)**

Scripture:

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." **James 2:17-18**

MODULE 2

# WHY BAPTISM?

**Because Jesus closely connected baptism with the experience of salvation.**

Scripture:

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. **Mark 16:16**

**Water baptism is an essential part of obedience.**

MODULE 2

# MODULE 3

THE JOURNEY TO BAPTISM

# PREREQUISITES FOR BAPTISM

The act of being baptized in and of itself **cannot** save anyone. It is **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ as one's savior that brings an individual to salvation.

Baptism is only effectual for those who have met certain requirements:

Those receiving baptism must have already laid the first two foundation stones in the Christian experience prior to their baptism, namely—**repentance** and **faith**.

## 1. REPENTANCE

## 2. FAITH

# REPENTANCE

Peter replied, “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.” Acts 2:38

This means one is not baptized merely because he wants to be part of a particular local church.

MODULE 3

# FAITH

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

This means that one must be old enough to know what he or she is doing. This requirement of faith rules out infant baptism.

# MEANING OF BAPTISM

**We are baptized simply because we are commanded by God to do so. However, as we respond to the Word of the Lord in faith, some very important things will take place.**

**Every person who goes into the waters of baptism should expect to experience five things by faith:**

- 1. We identify with Him in His death**
- 2. We identify with Him in His burial**
- 3. We identify with Him in His resurrection**
- 4. We have new victory over life dominating sins**
- 5. Spiritual cleansing and renewal**

**Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.**

“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food...”

**(I Corinthians 10:1-3)**

# WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

**Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in  
His death, burial and resurrection**

## **1. We identify with Him in His death**

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” **Romans 6:3**

# WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

**Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in  
His death, burial and resurrection**

## **2. We identify with Him in His burial.**

“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.” **Romans 6:4**

# WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

**Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in  
His death, burial and resurrection**

## **3. We identify with Him in His resurrection.**

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. **Romans 6:4**

Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **Colossians 1:12**

# WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

**Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in  
His death, burial and resurrection**

## **4. New victory over life dominating sins.**

When we are baptized, we lose our old master (sin, Satan) and become servants of righteousness.

**(Read Romans 6:5-23)**

# WHAT TAKES PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM?

## **Identification with the name of the Lord Jesus Christ**

Because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

**(Acts 8:16)**

So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

**(Acts 10:48)**

On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **(Acts 19:5)**

# FAQ's

## WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life. Baptism is a public declaration of an inward decision to accept Christ into our lives. If you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and have accepted Him into your life, water baptism might be the next step in your faith journey.

(Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47,48, Romans 6:4)

## CAN INFANTS BE BAPTIZED IN WATER?

We believe that the prerequisites for baptism are Faith and Repentance. This requires an individual to be old enough to make the decision to accept Christ themselves. Instead, we perform Child Dedications as Christ was presented to the Lord. (Luke 2:21-40) Child Dedications are an opportunity for parents to intentionally express their desire and commitment to raising their child to know and love God.

# HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

**Scriptural baptism is baptism by immersion (burial).**

As previously mentioned, The word “baptize” (English) or baptidzo (Greek) means “to dip”, “to overwhelm”, “to plunge”, “to submerge.” It means “to cause something to be dipped” or “to immerse something beneath the surface of water, or some other fluid” (In most cases the act of immersion is temporary and not permanent).

In order for something to be buried, it must be all the way under.

# HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

**Baptism is to be administered in the name  
of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus commanded that baptism was to be administered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (**Mt. 28:19-20**), which name the disciples came to see on the basis of Jesus' ascension and exaltation (**Acts 2:33-36**), was the Lord Jesus Christ. When they baptized, they baptized in this manner (**Acts 2:36-41; 8:12-16, 35- 38; 10:48**).

# HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

A suitable statement to be made in conjunction with baptism would be (example):

“Upon the confession of your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so you also shall rise to walk in newness of life.”

# HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

A suitable statement to be made in conjunction with baptism would be (example):

“Upon the confession of your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so you also shall rise to walk in newness of life.”

# WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BAPTIZED?

**Baptism is not the end!  
It is the beginning & continuation  
of life for the believer!**

Even as the waters of the Red Sea served as a separation between the Egyptian life of slavery and the land of God's provision for the Israelites of old, so the waters of baptism should serve as a permanent landmark in the life of the believer. Baptism should signal three things:

## **1. A Break with the Old Way of Life**

This means a willingness to sever all connections with ungodliness and those who live in ungodliness. It signifies the start of the CHRISTian life and dedication to Christ and the work of His Church. Baptism into His Name passes the ownership of our life over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

# WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BAPTIZED?

## **2. A New Standard of Living**

This means that from baptism on, there will be a determination to live by the principles of the Kingdom of God. This entails both its blessings and its obligations.

# WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BAPTIZED?

## **3. To Be A Disciple of Jesus**

This means that the person being baptized should see himself as a follower of Jesus, a student and a witness to others of all that Jesus stands for.

# FAITH DECLARATION

## **Template**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Name). I first accepted Jesus into my heart \_\_\_\_\_ (When/Where you accepted Jesus). Since accepting Jesus into my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ (How your life has changed or what Jesus means to you).

By being baptized today, I publicly declare my faith in Jesus Christ and my intention to follow Him all the days of my life.

Amen.

Please use the template above to write down your faith declaration. You will say this statement in front of the congregation right before getting baptized.

# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR BAPTISM SUNDAY

- SERVICE @ 10 AM
- WORSHIP
- SERMON
- SCRIPTURE & PRAYER
- FAITH DECLARATION/TESTIMONY
- BAPTISM
- CLOSING PRAYER OF CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING
- RECEIVE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR/BRING?

- TOWEL
- FULL SET OF CLOTHES
- NOTHING SEE THROUGH
- DARK LOOSE CLOTHES THAT YOU DON'T MIND GETTING WET
- SECOND SET OF CLOTHES TO CHANGE INTO
- SLIP ON SHOES TO WALK THROUGH CHURCH IN

## IMPORTANT!

- HOLD ON TO RAILING WHEN GOING INTO BAPTISMAL
- DON'T GRAB ONTO ANYONE WHEN YOU GO UNDER THE WATER

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