



WHAT IS CHRISTIAN BAPTISM?

Christian baptism is immersion in water as a public statement of one's new identity in Christ, having received Him by faith as Savior and Lord. Baptism does not save a person. Rather, baptism is the first act of obedience for one who has been saved. The model given to us in the Bible is that baptism immediately follows conversion.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day".
Acts 2:41

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan."
Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ Himself commands it.

"Then Jesus said to them. G' o 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."
Matthew 28:19

3. To publicly demonstrate that I really am a believer.

"And many. who heard him believed and were baptized."
Acts 18:8

4. To openly demonstrate my desire to obey Christ and my willingness to come under His Lordship in my life.

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?"
Luke 6:46

5. Baptism is the act that initiates the Christian into the fellowship of the believers.

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body."
1 Corinthians 12:13



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

Baptism doesn't make a person a Christian. Only faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's the outward sign of a commitment made in your heart. (*See *Ephesians 2:8-9*)

-It illustrates Christ's death, burial, & resurrection.

*"... Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... and he rose again."
1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

*"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."
Colossians 2:12*

-It illustrates your new life as a Christian.

*"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new period inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!"
2 Corinthians 5:17*

*"By our baptism then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as christ was raised from the dead ... so that we may live a new life!"
Romans 6:4*



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible says that every person who believes in Christ should be baptized. A believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all personal efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between themselves and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for salvation.

WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM?

1. Those who hear the Gospel.

*"... and many ... who heard him believed and were baptized."
Acts 18:8*

2. Those who believe in Christ.

*"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved..."
Mark 16:16*

3. Those who repent of sin.

*"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."
Acts 2:38*

4. Those who confess Christ with their mouth.

*". . . If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead you will be saved."
Romans 10:9*

5. Those who in good conscience pledge their life to Christ.

*"...Baptism that now saves you. not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God."
1 Peter 3:21*



WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you can after you become a believer.

“Those who believed were baptized that day”.
Acts 24:1

“Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, L’ook, here is water. Why shouldn’t leb baptized right now?’ Philip said, I’f you believe with all your heart, you may. The man answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.”
Acts 8:35-38

Yet it doesn’t have to occur the moment you believe. The Bible teaches that there is no reason to delay your baptism.

After becoming a believer, you should participate in the next available opportunity the church provides for baptism. If you wait until you feel you are a “god enough” believer, you will never feel ready for baptism.



WHY IS IMMERSION BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

It is the method used in Jesus' baptism.

*“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.”
(Matthew 3:16)*

Every baptism mentioned in the Bible is by immersion.

*“Then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ... “
(Acts 8:38-39)*

The word “baptize” means “to dip or submerge.”

Immersion best symbolizes Christ's burial and resurrection. (see Romans 6:1-11)



WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

In the Bible, we see parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them.

So if baptism signifies salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. Thus, the Bible would indicate that baptism is for people who have made a decision to follow Christ.

If you have not experienced a believer's baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

Adult baptism doesn't belittle your childhood baptism; it is a fulfillment of your parents' hopes when they had you baptized.

CAN OLDER CHILDREN BE BAPTIZED?

All instances of baptism in the New Testament occur following an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation. (*see Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48*) At Calvary Fellowship, that means we wait to baptize until a child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we then joyously baptize them in the Christian faith after conferring with the parents.



WHAT TO WEAR FOR YOUR BAPTISM.

Since you are being immersed, please wear swim trunks or shorts, and for women please wear a one piece swimsuit if possible under a dark T-shirt and shorts or trunks, or a sports bra under a dark T-shirt with shorts. Please no white or light colored T-shirts or shorts. Also, please bring a towel and sandals and a change of clothes.

Invite your family and friends to this joyful celebration of your new life. Since your baptism celebration happens only once in a lifetime, you may want to invite your friends and family to share your joy on that day. Prayerfully consider inviting your un-churched family and friends since this is a great opportunity to hear and witness the Good News.

We are excited for your baptism. Feel free to call us with your questions at the church office (925) 626-3525. May God richly bless you as you prepare for your baptism!

Sincerely,

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