

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” –Romans 6:4

Baptism truly is a very important event in the life of a believer. In the information below we have included a few details about what baptism is, and why we believe it to be both an essential and encouraging step for all believers and followers of Jesus to participate in. Please let us know if you have any more questions about this amazing aspect of the Christian faith!

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Read Acts 8:26-38.

As seen in this story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, the act of baptism is performed by immersing a believer into water.

WHY DO WE DO THIS?

1. Symbolism (Romans 6:3-4) - Baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation. The immersion into water represents death to sin, death to the old way of life for a believer. As you go under the water you are declaring that the old habits, old failures, and old struggles are being washed away. Baptism is a sign that shows the only real way to change is through death. Just like Christ was crucified, we must put to death our former sinful lifestyle. This death is not the end, but the beginning of a whole new life for a believer. As you rise out of the water, it shows that you have conquered sin and death through Jesus. You have been resurrected to a new life, clean, pure, set apart for good things, which God has prepared for you.

2. Personal Identification - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27). Baptism shows that your identity is in Christ. Our society puts so much emphasis on personal identity. For believers it does not matter whether you are a CEO or just an “average Joe,” the most important thing about you is that you are Christ’s and your identity is firm in who He is. Baptism highlights this identity we share much as it did for Christ Himself at His baptism as seen in the Gospel of Mark 1:9-11.

3. Public Declaration - “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (Acts 2:41). Baptism is also a proclamation to the world that you are a fully committed follower of Christ. It is a bold statement to friends, family members,

and co-workers that your life is different. You are now a new person, with a new identity, and a new future in Christ holding a living hope in the love of God! Lastly, it's a statement that you've been changed from the inside out, that you are now indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and outwardly you will follow Jesus until your last breath.

4. Obedience – “Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And 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’” (Matthew 28:16-20). Jesus has called us to follow our commitment to Him with baptism as a display of our obedience to the Great Commission to be lights in the world for Him.