

A. Why Should We Be Baptised?

As those who have accepted Jesus as Saviour, our desire should be to follow Jesus and be like Him. Jesus was baptised in water by John and in **Matthew 3:16** we read:

**“As soon as Jesus was baptised
he went up out of the water.”**

Baptism in water is an outward act that shows our inner experience. Jesus has washed away our sins so baptism is the way of showing this. It is a public way of showing people that we have made Jesus our Lord and we are joining the Church.

This is also referred to in **Mark 1:9** and **Luke 3:21** - so we should follow His example.

Jesus commanded it (**Matthew 28:19**):

**“Go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”**

B. Who Should Be Baptised?

Those who have made a personal decision to accept Jesus as their Saviour by repenting of sin and asking Him into their lives. Acts 2:38 says:

**“Repent and be baptised every one of you
in the name of Jesus Christ for
the forgiveness of your sins.”**

Read more from **Acts 8:12** and **Acts 22:16**.

Being baptised or sprinkled with water along with naming of a baby is a church ceremony known as "Christening". Christening (or infant baptism) is not taught in the Bible. Baptism is for believers only. Even when children may have been included in the household, as may have been so in the case of the Philippian jailer, their baptism was right because; well, you see for yourself (**Acts 16:32-34**).

Water baptism is only for those who have repented of sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Jesus taught this (**Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16**) and the Church did this (**Acts 2:41, 8:12, 8:36-38, 9:17-18, 10:47-48, 16:14-15, 16:31-34, 18:8** and **19:4-5**).

C. Why Completely Submerged?

This is the Bible pattern. In **John 3:23** we read "because there was plenty of water".

In **Acts 8:38** we have the phrase "went down into the water" and "came up out of the water". See also **Mark 1:9-10**.

D. The Meaning of Baptism?

By going down into the water, under it, and coming up again, we have a picture of Jesus who went down into death and rose again in resurrection life, reminding us that our old life before we were saved is dead and buried in baptism, and when we come up out of the water we walk in newness of life with Jesus Christ. Read in **Romans 6:3-4**.

Conclusion

**Water Baptism is a picture of death and life.
We are baptised in water as a sign that we:**

- (a) Repent, have faith in Christ and know that God has met with us;
- (b) Obey Christ's command to be baptised after our repentance;
- (c) Show to people in public that Jesus is our LORD.

Introduction

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

This is the question that many new converts are faced with upon accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of their life.

This is a valid question and it should be understood from a biblical perspective.

Let me just say here that Baptism is a necessary and vital part of salvation. It shows complete obedience to God.

The purpose of this lesson is to take an in-depth look at baptism and the role that it plays in the Christian Church. It is important that you understand the nature of baptism if you are to develop fully in your knowledge of God.

Definition of Baptism

BAPTIZE: (Greek, baptizien to dip, baptize) to administer baptism to, to purify or cleanse spiritually esp. by a purging experience or ordeal.

BAPTISM: A Christian sacrament marked by ritual use of water and admitting the recipient to the christian community (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, copyright 1984 by Merriam-Webster Inc.)

Baptism is Commanded By the Lord

ST MATTHEW 28:

18. And **JESUS** came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19. GO YE THEREFORE, and teach all nations, **BAPTIZING THEM** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen

ST MARK 16:

15. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16. **He that BELIEVETH and is BAPTIZED shall BE SAVED;** but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Jesus sent his Disciples into the world to preach the Gospel. He also, commanded them to baptize them that believe in him. As we study further, you will be able to see the significance of being baptized.

Water Baptism is Part of the Salvation Equation

ST JOHN 3:

3. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN OF WATER and of the Spirit, HE CANNOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said unto thee, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of the WATER and of the Spirit to be able reach the kingdom of God. We are born of the water when we are baptized into Jesus.

Jesus also gives us the Holy Ghost to dwell in us. This is how we are born of the Spirit (ST JOHN Chapter 14).

Jesus makes it quite clear that we must be born of the water (baptized) in order to see God's kingdom.