

Baptized by Water

Baptism comes to us from the Greek language of Jesus' time. In secular literature it meant "to dip", as in dipping a cup into a bucket of water.

It also meant "to plunge", as in plunging a piece of cloth into a container of liquid dye. In a more unique sense, it was used in the context of a sinking ship. People would say that a ship that sunk was baptized.

There are four kinds of baptism stated in the Bible and in each case this principle applies.

Baptism is being "put into" or "immersed" or "plunged" into something whether it is water, fire, the Holy Spirit, or the family of God.

Water baptism was an event that followers of Christ participated in immediately following their conversion in the New Testament.

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... Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

—Acts 2:38,41

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. — Acts 16:14,15

Baptism @NAC

When a person desires to be baptized at NAC, there are five personal declarations that candidates need to agree with in order to be baptized.

Each candidate will be asked to verbalize why they want to be baptized and asked to include the five declarations in their sharing at the time of baptism. They are encouraged to invite someone who has significantly influenced them in their spiritual journey to baptize them in the name of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Five Declarations for Baptism

- I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- I believe that Jesus Christ is God Himself
- I believe that Jesus Christ was crucified for my sins, buried for three days and resurrected from the dead
- I have confessed my sins to Jesus Christ and have asked Him to forgive me and become the Lord and Saviour of my life
- I have renounced Satan and his work

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." — Matt



At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized — Acts 16:33.

Other references Acts 8:35-38 & Acts 18:8

Who should be baptized?

Everyone who has made a cognitive personal decision to become a follower of Christ should be baptized.

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

People baptized before they became followers should be rebaptized. Although we practice and teach baptism by immersion, we believe that the spirit of baptism and commitment to the Lord is of more importance than the form. Therefore, we believe that if someone had been baptized by sprinkling or pouring in a church or in a pool, that would be a valid baptism, as long as they had made that decision for themselves.

Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

—Acts 18:8

Baptism is a positive declaration of our obedience to a command of Jesus Christ and a demonstration of Jesus' Lordship over our lives.

Jesus teaches in Matthew 28 that his followers are to go and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus commanded that every follower of Christ be baptized.

When I submit to the things that Jesus is asking from me, I demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life. This is not an option of faith but a requirement. It is imperative that every follower of Christ understands just how important the issue of obedience is.

Baptism is a clear example that someone truly is a follower of Christ and is willing to obey whatever Jesus commands. One of Jesus closest disciples, John, states that obedience releases God's love into our inner being

It is not an act that saves us, rather it is an act that proves that we have faith in Christ's crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

We know that we have come to know (Jesus) if we obey his commands. If anyone obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him. —1 John 2:3,5

Those who obey (Jesus') commands live in him, and he in them —1 John 3:24a

Baptism is a public statement of our submission to the Body of Christ, the Church.

When we are baptized it is a public declaration that I am identifying myself with the church – Christ's body. I am declaring to other followers, unbelievers and the heavenly powers surrounding us that my allegiance is now with Christ. I have joined Christ's kingdom and His Body, the Church.

No one can decide for another to be baptized. The individual must decide for themselves.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. —1 Cor. 12:13

Ready to move forward with baptism?

To get more information about baptism, or to declare your intent to be baptized, you can contact your small group leader, or email office@nacnet.net or text 416.460.0026

Why Immersion?

We practice baptism by immersion, which means the follower is completely submerged underneath the water.

We believe that full immersion is clearly taught in scripture. The only time that this practice may not be advised is if being immersed would adversely affect the health of the person.

The scriptures use the phrase "coming up, out of the water" to describe Jesus' baptism (*reference Matt. 3:16*) and in Acts 8:39 we read about Philip and the eunuch also coming up out of the water.

It also symbolizes that we are given a new life. (*reference Romans 6:3-4*)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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" —Matt. 28:18-20

What about Children?

Children that are not yet aware of their salvation should not be baptized.

Baptism is a public sign of inward faith, those who have not yet experienced it or who cannot verbalize what it means to them should not be baptized.

Child dedication is something parents can do to demonstrate their commitment to raise their children up in the faith in the hopes that someday they will make their own decision to follow Christ.

(*reference 1 Sam. 1:28 Hannah dedicates Samuel & Luke 2:22 Mary and Joseph dedicate Jesus*)

Did you know...?

- ~Immersion was practiced in the old Testament
- ~Jesus chose to be baptized by his close friend John
- ~Immersion in water is symbolic of being buried with Christ and being raised up again like His resurrection.