

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To **follow** the example set by Christ.

Mark 1:9 (NIV)

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

▪ Why was Jesus baptized? **To fulfill all righteousness.**

Matthew 3:15 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

2. Because Christ and the Apostles **commanded** it.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

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."

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

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."

3. Because the early church believed it was **important**.

Clement of Alexandria – 1st Century, Irenaeus 110 A.D., Justin Martyr 133 A.D., Tertullian 160 A.D., et al.

In the Book of Acts, when someone believed the message, repented and confessed Christ, they were immediately baptized. We want to respond with the same sense of urgency as the first century church had regarding baptism following a confession of faith.

Acts 8:35-39 (NIV)

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

4. Because baptism has a great deal of spiritual significance.

- It is a picture of Christ's **death** and **resurrection**.

Romans 6:4 (NIV)

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.

Colossians 2:12 (NIV)

having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

- It is a picture of a **new birth**; a starting point.

John 3:3-5 (NIV)

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit."

5. So that the church has a **common** message: **team**.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Who Should Be Baptized?

Those who **believe** and have **repented**.

Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

At Real Life Ministries, we wait until our children are old enough (age of accountability), to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. A baby or a young child cannot understand sin or the need for Christ. It must be their decision, and their decision must be accompanied by faith and repentance.

At Real Life it's a membership requirement that every member be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated (immersion), even though many of us were sprinkled as children.

When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you possibly can!

Acts 2:41 (NIV)

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

Acts 16:31-34 (NIV)

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe God—he and his whole family.

NOTE: We've given many good, biblical reasons why someone should be baptized (by immersion). Is there really a good reason not to?

Q: Can I have my friends/home group and family be present?

Many desire to have family and friends/home group present at their baptism. That's great! However, in keeping with the early church's sense of urgency regarding baptism; please make these arrangements as soon as you possibly can.

Q: Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! So long as each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism and they have personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation. (We encourage children to meet with one of our ministers prior to being baptized.)

It is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith and obedience, not a family tradition. It's usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ.

Q: What should I wear when I'm baptized?

Please wear something modest. Shorts and t-shirts are fine. Some wear sweats. Others wear their regular clothes. Men: regular swim trunks are fine. Women: please no bikinis or other revealing attire. Note: White t-shirts can be very revealing when wet.

(We have a supply of clean t-shirts, sweats and shorts that you can borrow if you forget your extra set of clothing or if you want to be baptized right after this class.)

Q: Will I have to say anything?

Yes. We will ask you to confess that you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and if He is your Lord and Savior.

Q: What if I was baptized in another church?

That's fine, as long as you were baptized by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus, (Acts 19:5) or in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28). If that's the case, you do not need to be baptized again. Note: If you were baptized in a cult, then you will need to do it again.