

Every RBBC member has been baptized by immersion as Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to follow.

When are we to be baptized?

As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay.

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41)

"And then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him." (Acts 8:35-38)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

What will the baptism experience be like?

We make every effort to make your baptism a memorable and comfortable spiritual experience for you. When the appointment for your baptism is made, you will be notified by letter and/or telephone. At the time of your baptism, you'll receive complete instructions on what to do. The baptismal committee will also be available to assist you. There will be dressing rooms and the water will be warm and comfortable. We want your baptism to be a special time for you and your family.

We hope this information will bring the understanding about baptism that will be helpful to you. Please feel free to contact the church office if you have any further questions.

(Unless noted otherwise, all scripture quotations in this pamphlet are from the New American Standard Bible.)

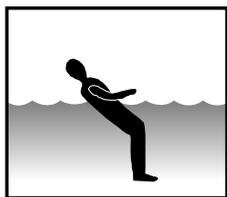
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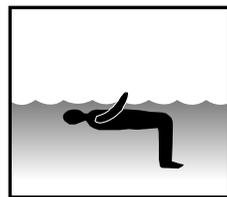
CLEARING
UP THE
WATERS...
ABOUT
BAPTISM

*Biblical Answers
To Questions
About Baptism*

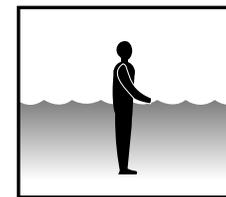
Baptism Pictures the...



DEATH



BURIAL



RESURRECTION

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Why Be Baptized?

Because you want to follow Christ's example.

"And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan." (Mark 1:9)

Because Christ commanded it.

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Because it shows you are a believer.

"...Many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized." (Acts 18:8).

Because obeying Christ's command shows you know Him.

"And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments." (1 John 2:3)

Baptism is an opportunity to identify ourselves with the Savior.

What is the meaning of baptism?

It is a symbol of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried... and He was raised on the third day..." (I Corinthians 15:3,4)

"...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian.

"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

"Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead, through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

How are we to be baptized?

Like Jesus was baptized - Immersed in water.

"And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water..." (Matthew 3:16)

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water.

"...and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38)

The word baptize literally means "to dip under water."

The Greek word, "baptizo" means "to immerse or dip under water."

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized..." (Acts 2:41)

"But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike." (Acts 8:12)

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ. We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe. Our church recommends that you be baptized if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer.