

Baptism 101



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Summary

Baptism publicly declares...

Jesus is my Lord & Saviour!

I am a child of God!

I am forgiven of my sins!

I am part of the family of God!

Baptism is a **public** declaration of an **internal** reality.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT BAPTISM?

- Jesus commands us to be baptized.
 - » In The Great Commission, Jesus tells us to make disciples and baptise them.

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.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

- Jesus was baptized Himself, setting the example for us.
 - » Matthew 3:13-17
 - » Mark 1:9-11
 - » Luke 3:21-22
 - » John 1:29-34
- The book of Acts records multiple baptisms, displaying that the early Church considered this one of the first steps for new believers in Jesus.
 - » Acts 8:36-38
 - » Acts 9:18
 - » Acts 10:47-48
 - » Acts 16:15
 - » Acts 16:33
 - » Acts 18:8
 - » Acts 19:5
 - » Acts 22:16

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

Acts 22:16 ESV

As they continued along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch exclaimed, “Look! Water! What forbids me from being baptized?” Philip said to him, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Acts 8:36-37 AMP

- We are baptised, not into a private faith, but into a community of believers in Jesus, the family of God.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...

1 Corinthians 12:13a CSB

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WHAT DOES BAPTISM INVOLVE

- Jesus taught through His example that baptism involves being immersed in water.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:13-17 NIV

- In Matthew 28:19, Jesus adds the element of the Trinity.

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...
Matthew 28:19 NIV, emphasis added

- Because baptism is preceded by salvation, the backdrop to being baptised includes confession & repentance.

If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].
1 John 1:9 AMP

...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9 ESV

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God's purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4:17 AMP

I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.
Acts 20:21 NLT

- We believe baptism is not just a ritual or tradition, but a personal choice and act of obedience following a decision to become a follower of Jesus. This is why we do not partake in infant baptisms, as it does not involve the element of personal choice.

BAPTISM SYMBOLISES THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

- Going under the water
 - represents sinking (or washing) of our sins & old way of life
 - we identify with Christ's crucifixion and death
- Coming out of the water
 - represents rising to our new life in Christ
 - we identify with Christ's resurrection and defeat of death!

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Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

Romans 6:3-5 NIV

We have therefore been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory and power of the Father, we too might walk habitually in newness of life [abandoning our old ways].

Romans 6:4 AMP

Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as He did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's cross.

Colossians 2:12-14 MSG

Definitions

βαπτίζω

baptizō: Greek verb translated as baptise, meaning to immerse or submerge

confession: the act of acknowledging or openly declaring something to God and/or others. For Christians, this could be admitting our sin, or proclaiming our faith in Jesus as our Saviour

the Great Commission: Jesus' final instructions to His followers to make disciples, baptise them, and teach them to obey Him (recorded in Matthew 28:18-20)

μετάνοια (metanoia)

repentance: a change of mind and heart flowing from a recognition of and deep sorrow for one's sins, and resulting in an active turning away from sin and toward God

Let's Discuss...

- If baptism is representative of the cleansing/death of our sins and old way of life, why do you think Jesus chose to be baptised?
- What motivates your desire to be baptised?
- Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV tells us, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."* Although our salvation is based solely on our faith in Jesus, and does not hinge on whether or not we are baptised, why do you think Jesus asks us to follow His example in this step of obedience after becoming His followers?
- Julie talks about the public and communal nature of baptism. Is this meaningful to you, why or why not? Do you have any hesitations about making your faith public in this way? How do you feel about being baptised into the "family of God"?

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- Julie mentions that the Greek verb baptizō means to immerse or submerge. Now that you are a follower of Jesus, are there any other ways that you want to totally immerse yourself and your life into this new life of faith? Are there any other areas of your life you want to be intentional to let “die”, so you can replace it with resurrected new life/rebirth in Christ?
- Read Matthew 3:13-4:11. Notice what happens right after Jesus’ baptism. Are you prepared to enter your faith journey, knowing that although your sins have been completely forgiven and washed away, temptation will still come?
 - » How does Jesus resist the tempter? What “weapon” does He use? (*Hint: See also Ephesians 6:17.*)
 - » Bonus! Keep reading...What do we see going on through Jesus in the rest of Matthew 4 and the following chapters? Remember, Jesus’ example to us doesn’t end with baptism and resisting temptation. He wants to work through you too to bring hope and healing in the lives of those around you!
- Don’t just take our word for it...ask other believers in your world! Why did they choose to get baptised? Was it meaningful to them? How did it impact them? Check out the Let’s Discuss...Baptism series for more encouraging stories and discussion on baptism
- Who will you invite to your baptism?

Let’s Pray...

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw Him they worshipped Him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally.

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave His charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20 MSG

- Are you like the disciples who were ready to worship the moment they saw Jesus? Or do you feel more like those who “held back”, not sure about what you might be risking if you follow Jesus wholeheartedly? Either way, meditate on these final words of Jesus on earth, His parting encouragement to us. As we give our lives to Him, learning His ways and allowing ourselves to be marked by baptism, He will be faithful to be with us day after day after day. Be honest with God about where you’re at, know that He will meet you there, and pray for His words to take root in your soul as you step out in faith to follow Him.

Let’s Go Deeper...

- **The Meaning of Baptism in the Bible** by BibleProject [article]
- **Salvation** theme by The Discipleship Project [videos]
- **The Baptism of Jesus: Luke 3-9** by BibleProject [video]

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