



What is Christian Baptism?

I. Who Should be Baptized?

A. When Jesus commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel, He also told them to baptize those who became His disciples. (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

B. In the case of the Philippian jailer (*Acts 16:31-34*), “he and all his” were baptized, including his family and perhaps some servants.

But note the two conditions:

- 1) They all heard the word of the Lord (*verse 32*), and
- 2) By trusting in Jesus they all believed in God (*verse 34*). They were old enough to hear the gospel and put their faith in Christ before they were baptized.

The order is clear and is always the same in the Bible: the individual trusts in Christ and then he is baptized.

II. Why Should I be Baptized If I Am a Christian?

A. Because the Lord Jesus Christ calls all of His followers to do it. (*Matthew 28:19-20*) It is given as one of the first steps of faith for the new believer who wants to follow Jesus.

B. “Baptism...(is) the answer of a good conscience toward God.” (*1 Peter 3:21*) We agree with the Word of God when we are baptized according to His instructions.

III. What Does Baptism Mean?

A. It is a physical picture of our union with Christ spiritually. (*Romans 6:1-8*)

B. It identifies you publicly as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

C. It is a personal testimony that you will follow the Lord in all His ways in faithful obedience to the Word of God, in prayer, in church attendance and membership, in witnessing, and living a pure life in accordance with His Word, the Bible. (*Romans 6:1-8*)

IV. What is the Method of Water Baptism?

A. Immersion is the method practiced by His church because that is the method which best pictures our baptism by the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12*)

B. Immersion is the method used by His church in the New Testament. (*Acts 8:35-39a*)

V. Must One Be Baptized in Order to Be Saved?

A. Baptism does not save an individual nor is it a part of salvation. Faith in Christ is the only means whereby salvation can be received. But baptism is a testimony to personal faith in Christ and a desire to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.