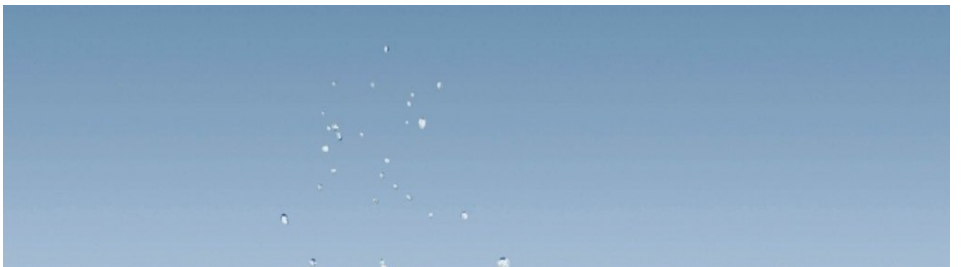




B A P T I S M ?
ANSWERING THE WHATS AND WHYS

Matthew 28: 19 - 20

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; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.



Why Do People Get Baptized ?

People get baptized to tell others they have joined God's Family.

Acts 2:41 Then those people who accepted what Peter said about Jesus were baptized.

Acts 19: 5 Paul explained to them about believing in Jesus. Then they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Most of us can remember at least one special Christmas when we received a certain gift we had hoped so much for. It was exciting to open that one gift of love. We could hardly wait to tell others about what we had received.

Just like opening that special gift you received at Christmas, there is excitement when Christ comes into our lives bringing His special gift of eternal life. It is so special that we will want to tell others about it.

Romans 6:23 God gives us a free gift—life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Baptism is a special way of showing your neighbors and friends that Jesus is in your life and you are a member of His family.



Who Can Be Baptized?

Baptism is for followers of Jesus.

You should wait to be baptized until you have joined God's family. You should wait because when you are baptized you are saying (OUTWARDLY) that Jesus is in your heart and life (INWARDLY).

John 1:12 Some people did accept Jesus. They believed in Him. To them He gave the right to become children of God.

John 10: 47 Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did!

The followers of Jesus were baptized after they joined God's family. When you invite Jesus into your life, you are joining God's family. Once you are a member of God's family, you can be baptized.



Invite Jesus Into Your Life

Have you joined God's family and invited Jesus into your life?

- o **Yes**, I have already joined God's family.
- o **No**, I have not joined God's family.

Would you like to join God's family now?

You can invite Jesus into your life and join God's family right now by praying a prayer like this:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving me enough to die on the cross to pay for my sin. I know I do wrong things. Please forgive me for all the wrong things that I've done. I want you to come into my life. Help me to choose to do what you want me to do. Thank you for making me your child and a member of your family. Amen



How Is A Person Baptized?

A person is baptized in water.

The word, BAPTIZE, means “to put in the water”. When you are baptized, you will be in the water.

Acts 8:38 Philip and the officer went down into the water,
and Philip baptized him.

People are baptized in many different places. Philip used a river in the book of Acts. A church often uses something that looks a little like a swimming pool.

A person is baptized by someone else.

1 Corinthians 1:16 The apostle Paul
“...baptized the family of
Stephanas...”



Acts 8:38 “...Philip baptized him,” the officer
from Ethiopia.

You cannot baptize yourself. You can have any Christian leader in your life baptize you.

A person is baptized when other people are watching.

Acts 2:41 Then those people who accepted what Peter said about Jesus were baptized. About 3000 people...

Since you are telling people that Jesus is in your life when you are baptized, there will be people watching and listening.

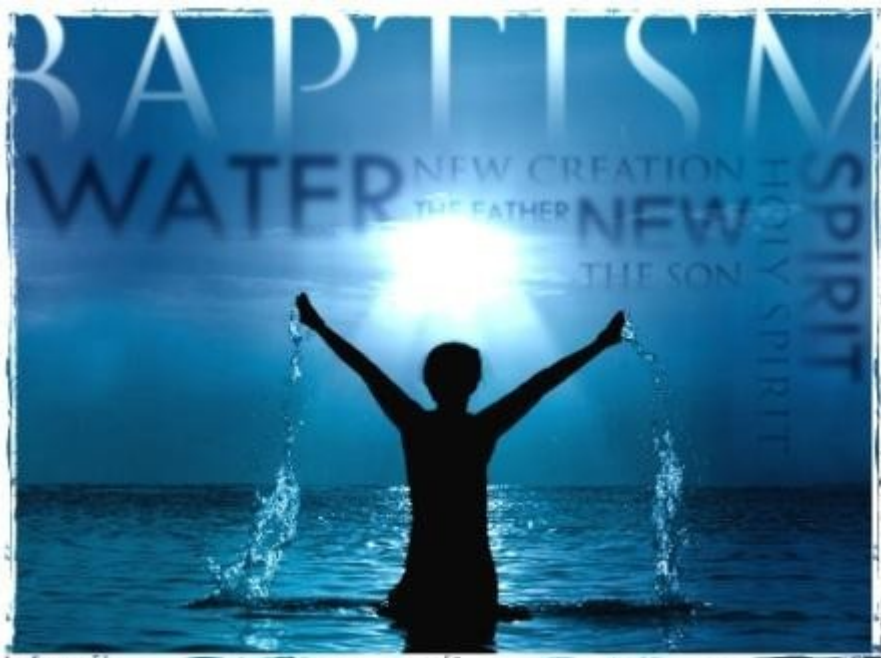
A person is baptized in the name of the Father, the Son (that's Jesus), and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 Go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

You will be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in special honor of the part each has played in your salvation.

In our church a person is dipped forward under the water three times.

Going down into the water represents dying with Christ. Coming up out of the water symbolizes being raised to new life with Him.



Who Can Baptize?

Jesus commands all of His followers to baptize...

Matthew 28: 19 - 20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them ...



The disciples baptized people. After Peter and the other eleven finished speaking to the crowds on the day of Pentecost, they baptized a large number of people...

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

You can have any Christian leader in your life baptize you.

The person who baptizes you should be someone who leads you in your relationship with Jesus. This can be a

pastor, parent, Sunday school teacher, mentor, spouse, or mature Christian friend. You should ask that person to baptize you when you make the decision to be baptized.



Adapted from **Baptism** by Richard Todd

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