



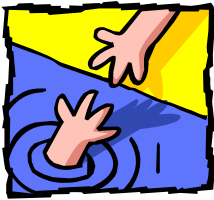
## Why Baptism in Water?



Most people know that baptism is something Christians do, but many people don't really understand why they need to be baptized. The word "baptize" comes from an old Greek word that means to immerse (to dip) something in liquid until it is completely wet all over.

Baptism is a word found only in the New Testament because it is only because of Jesus that we can be baptized. The people in Jesus' day understood baptism very well because in those days their clothes were made from spun sheep's wool, which had no color, or from fibers of a plant called flax (which we call linen) that also had no color, so they made colors by squeezing berries and other ways. Then they colored their clothes by immersing (baptizing) their clothes in the colors they made. This process was called dying their clothes – a significant word containing the concept of the old dying off and the new being raised up.

In the same way when Christians are baptized they are identifying with Jesus' death on the cross by dying to the old sinful person we were – and then being raised up out of the water to new life as Jesus was raised up from the dead unto eternal life.



Romans 6:4 *"We are buried with Jesus by baptism unto death so that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of God the Father, so we should also walk in newness of life."* Notice in this verse the word Jesus is used in one place, and the word Christ is used in another. That's because the word Jesus refers to Him in His human body here on earth and the word Christ refers to Him in His divine spiritual body as the anointed Son of God, seated in Heaven.

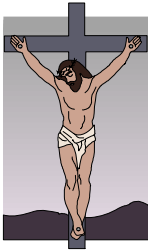
Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist even though He had never sinned. John thought he should be baptized by Jesus instead, because he knew he was a sinner, but Jesus said, *"Let Me be baptized now for this way it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness."* (Matthew 3:15) Jesus wanted to set an example for all of us who are called Christians – that if our sinless Lord was baptized, how much more we who have sinned need to be baptized.

Being baptized in water is your public declaration that you have been born again and have made Jesus the Lord of your life. It is the physical expression of becoming a part of the Body of Christ. It's your public pledge of loyalty to Him in front of witnesses – your vow of commitment to leave the old sinful lifestyle behind and start a new life with Christ as the Lord of your life.



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Baptism is a commandment given by Jesus. He told His disciples to, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.”* (Mark 16:15) The gospel is the good news that all sins have been forgiven at the cross of Calvary for those who come to Jesus. He made the perfect sacrifice on that cross where His blood was shed – taking all the sin of mankind, past, present and future upon Himself so we don't have to carry our sin as a bag of guilt on our back.



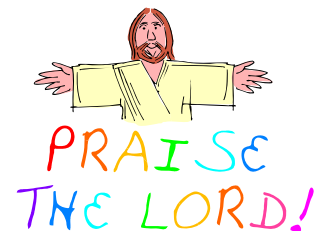
That's why He commanded that anyone who believes in Him, should be baptized: so that symbolically they could physically and spiritually wash away all the old disappointments in themselves and others for things that they've done; release all the past memories that make them feel unclean and unlovable; and be released into a fresh, new, clean start in life.

The Blood that Jesus shed on the cross for our forgiveness also made us able to enter into the very presence of God. Hebrews 10:19 – 22 says, *“Having, therefore, boldness to enter into the holiest (the presence of God) by the blood of Jesus; By a new and living way, which He has dedicated as holy for us, through the veil of His flesh; Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts washed from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

As Christians, we are in the family of God, and only the family of God has the awesome privilege of entering directly into the presence of God – and going directly up to Him and talking with Him one to one. Dear sister in Christ, do you really comprehend what you have been given? For thousands of years no one except a high priest was allowed to go within the veil where God's presence was – and the priest could only go in there once a year, and only after days of preparation – washing himself many times, washing his clothes, wearing only holy garments, and with a rope tied around his ankle in case he died in there so they could pull him out. The only reason He would have died in the presence of Almighty God was if he had sin in his life that he had not confessed and repented of.

But, we don't have to worry about all that! We are welcome in God's presence any time of the day or night! What a marvelous thing Jesus did for us by shedding His blood on the cross, because without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin – because life is in the blood.

Take time to praise the Lord now and thank Him for this most precious gift He gave to us!



## *Why Baptism in Water?*

1. What does the word “baptize” mean?

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2. Why is the word “baptism” found only in the New Testament?

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3. Why was the process of dying clothes like baptism?

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4. Why did Jesus get baptized when He had never sinned?

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5. Why does baptism have to be public?

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6. Is baptism a choice?

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7. Why does baptism make me feel better?

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8. What else did the blood of Jesus do for me?

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9. Who are the only people who can enter directly into the presence of God?

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10. What does baptism fulfill? (Matthew 3:15)  
(The answer to this question is your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

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## *Why Baptism in Water?*

1. What does the word “baptize” mean?

To dip something in liquid until it’s completely covered.

2. Why is the word “baptism” found only in the New Testament?

It’s only because of Jesus that we can be baptized.

3. Why was the process of dying clothes like baptism?

It has the concept of the old dying off and the new being raised up.

4. Why did Jesus get baptized when He had never sinned?

To set the example for all of us.

5. Why does baptism have to be public?

To declare you have made Jesus Lord of your life and that you will be loyal to Him.

6. Is baptism a choice?

No It is a commandment.

7. Why does baptism make me feel better?

Because I can release all past memories that make me feel unclean and unlovable.

8. What else did the blood of Jesus do for me?

Made me able to enter into the very presence of God.

9. Who are the only people who can enter directly into the presence of God?

Only the family of God.

10. What does baptism fulfill? (Matthew 3:15)

MEMORY VERSE “Let Me be baptized now, for this way it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness.”