



# Believers Baptism

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**What is believers baptism?**

**Why should I be baptised?**

**What am I actually doing when  
I am baptised?**

**Why do Baptists baptise  
the way we do?**

## Why Do Baptists Baptise The Way We Do?

**In the Baptist Church we practice Believers Baptism by immersion.** Other Christian denominations practice other various forms of Baptism. Some denominations don't practice Baptism at all.

In the Baptist church we believe that Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and is a command of Christ that we should be baptised as believers.

In accordance with the New Testament Scripture we administer Baptism by total immersion which symbolises the believer's identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection, the remission of sins and the believers dedication of themselves to God to live and walk in newness of life.

### Why Don't We Baptise Children?

The practice of infant baptism (sometimes known as christening) began in about the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, primarily because the church placed an over-emphasis on baptism being essential for salvation. There is today still a danger that people rely on their infant baptism for salvation rather than having faith in Christ Jesus, which the Bible says is the only way to God.

There is no clear evidence for infant baptism in the Bible. Those in the Bible who were baptised were those who already believed and placed their faith in Christ. It is generally accepted that it was those who knew what they were doing.

### Why Do We Baptise By Immersion?

Immersion is the mode of Baptism that was practiced in the Bible. As you will read in this pamphlet immersion is a picture of what Christ has done for us as Christians.

We do not baptise by sprinkling or affusion (pouring water over the head) because again there is no clear evidence that baptism was practised this way in the Bible.

## Why Should I Be Baptised As A Believer?

1. **Christ commanded it.** See Matthew 28:18-20. Christ commands his disciples to make disciples, to baptise them and to teach them. When I am baptised I show my love and obedience for him by obeying his command. (see 1 John 5:3).
2. **Christ Jesus himself was baptised.** See Matthew 3:13-17. In being baptised Jesus was doing what God required him to do. He was making a public stand for his Father in heaven and he was identifying himself with us. When I am baptised I am identifying myself with him. I am following his example.
3. **To show others I am on God's side.** Jesus constantly impressed on his disciples the need to tell others what he has done in one's life. Don't hide your salvation. Make a stand for God.
4. **God blesses us through our Baptism.** See Matthew 3:16-17. When Jesus was Baptised, God the Father was very pleased with him for doing what was required of him. God is pleased with us when we act in obedience to him.
5. **The early Church practised believers baptism.** See Acts 2:37-38. Part of the process of becoming a Christian was to be baptised. There is no record of any follower of Christ from Acts to Revelation who was not baptised.

### Some further references of early Christians who were baptised are:

- Acts 8:26-40; *Philip leads the Ethiopian to Christ.*
  - Acts 9:1-19; *Paul is baptised by Ananias.*
  - Acts 16:11-15; *Lydia and her family accept Christ and are baptised.*
  - Acts 16:25-34; *The Philippian jailer and his family are baptised.*
6. **In being Baptised I am recommitting my life to God as an act of public declaration.**

# According To The Bible What Does Baptism Signify?

## Romans 6:1-14

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup>Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

- Baptism is a symbol of Salvation. It graphically portrays the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Notice the 4 actions. "Died...Buried...Raised...Live and Walk
- I identify myself with Christ's death.

## Galatians 3:26-29

<sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- Baptism signifies that you have clothed yourselves with Christ

## 1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison <sup>20</sup>who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup>and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- Baptism witnesses that Christ has forgiven your sin. He died to save you.
- Baptism is an outward sign of an inward attitude.
- Baptism is a pledge of allegiance.

## What Am I Actually Doing When I Am Baptised?

1. I identify myself with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. (*Romans 6:4*)
2. When I go down into the water, I publicly renounce my old sinful nature. I agree that it is fit only to be buried. (*Romans 6:11, Colossians 3:5*)
3. Coming up out of the water I acknowledge the new life which God gave me when I believed. (*John 10:10*)
4. I declare my dependence on the presence of the Holy Spirit to live a God directed life. (*Romans 6:13, Romans 8:14*)
5. When I leave the water I declare my intention to live by the values of Christ's Kingdom. (*Colossians 3:1-3, 1 John 1:5-7*)

## What Baptism Is Not:

### 1. **Baptism does not make you right with God.**

*We are all sinners. Being baptised in itself will not change that. Only Christ can change our hearts. He is the only way to the Father. Baptism is an obedient act of faith that says "I want to live for God and follow Him, because of what he has already done for me".*

### 2. **Baptism does not make you a Christian.**

*There is only one way to be saved from Sin, accepting Christ as your Saviour. In Baptism we identify ourselves with Christ and his death. We show what Christ has done already for us.*

### 3. **Baptism does not give you a ticket to heaven.**

*Baptism is not a magical ceremony or a rite that will assure you of a place in heaven. There is only one way to heaven. That is through Christ Jesus. Baptism is merely a sign of what Christ has already done for you.*

## Should I Be Baptised?

- Do you acknowledge and profess faith and trust in the Lord God and in His holy word?
- Have you realised that you are a sinner, and accepted Christ as your Lord and Saviour?
- Do you promise by God's grace to follow Christ daily and to serve Him as Lord of your life?
- Have you prayed about taking the step to be baptised?

If you have answered yes to these questions, then you should be baptised.