

BAPTISM: HOW YOU IDENTIFY WITH GOD'S FAMILY

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. **It illustrates Christ's _____, _____, and resurrection.**

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, ESV)

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4, ESV)

Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12, NIV)

2. **It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.**

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27, NIV)

Baptism doesn't make you a believer—it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

3. **It demonstrates my _____ into Christ's body, the church.**

(12) Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (13) For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (14) Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, NIV)

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. **To follow the example set by _____.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. (Mark 1:9, ESV)

2. **Because Christ _____ it.**

(19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

3. It shows that I really am a _____.

And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:8b, ESV)

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:3-4, ESV)

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because _____ was baptized that way.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. (Matthew 3:16a, NIV)

2. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

Two examples:

And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. (Acts 8:38, NIV)

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. (John 3:23, NIV)

3. The word "baptize" means to _____ water.

The Greek word *baptizo* in Mounces dictionary means "to put or go under water."

4. Baptism is the best symbol of a burial and resurrection!

The founders from different denominations agree with the statement above.

MARTIN LUTHER: "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

JOHN CALVIN: "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

JOHN WESLEY: "We are buried with him, alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion."

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has _____ in Christ.

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

(12) But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (13) Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. (Acts 8:12-13, ESV)

When Should I Be Baptized?

“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!”

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never feel “good enough!”

THE LORD’S SUPPER: COMMUNION WITH GOD’S FAMILY

Jesus never asked his disciples to remember his birth. But he did instruct them to remember his death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called *ordinances*) as reminders of his death. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What Is the Lord’s Supper?

(23) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, ESV)

1. It is a _____. VERSE 23
2. It is a _____. VERSE 24
3. It is a _____. VERSE 25
4. It is a _____. VERSE 26

Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already _____ (Mark 14:22-26).

(22) And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." (23) And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. (24) And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. (25) Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:22-25, ESV)

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

(27) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. (28) Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29, ESV)

You prepare yourself through:

- **Self-Examination** (1 Corinthians 11:27)
- **Confessing My Sins** (1 John 1:9)
- **Recommitment** (Romans 12:1)
- **Restoring Relationships** (Matthew 5:23-24)

When and How Often Should We Observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night.

Baptism is like the wedding ceremony, the outward ceremony showing the world that you are in a dedicated and committed covenant relationship to Jesus. Communion is a reminder of what Jesus did and what He is going to do. It is also time to reflect, a time to really examine our hearts before the Lord and be renewed in Him.