

BAPTISM

questions & answers



"He who believes and is baptized will be saved."
-Jesus -

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[FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS HERE](#)

Do you believe that Jesus is the son of God? Have you said "Yes!" to him and asked him to be the Lord and leader of your life? Have you confessed your sins to him and asked him to give you a fresh start? Are you committed to do your best to live your life for God? If so, read on about baptism. If not, read on anyway to find out how.

What Baptism Is Not

Baptism is not a magical act that by itself forgives your sins and grants you a free pass to heaven.

What Baptism Is

Baptism must be connected to a genuine confession of faith in Jesus Christ and a commitment to live life as his follower. It is the follow-up step to accepting Jesus Christ as the rescuer and leader of your life. It is a way you publicly declare what God has *already* done privately in your heart – that he has given you a fresh start – a *new* life. It lets people know you're committed to follow Christ the rest of your life.

Why Bother?

You may think, come on now, it already took a lot to become a Christian. Now I'm supposed to get in front of people and allow someone to baptize me by lowering me completely under water. Is that really necessary? What does it all mean?

The Symbolism

The Dunk -- Going under water is symbolic of the death we died to our old self – the person we were – before Christ changed our heart and life. Galatians 2:19,20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ. I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me..."

The Lift -- Coming up out of the water is symbolic of the new life Christ gave us when we confessed our sins and were forgiven, washed clean. It's us telling Jesus, "my life is

your life, develop me into the person you want me to become, the person you created me to be." Romans 6:4 says, "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

COMMON QUESTIONS

What if I believe in Jesus, but don't get baptized?

Would you agree that as a follower of Jesus Christ you are called to be obedient to his commands and the Bible? Here is a very clear statement by Jesus found in Mark 16:16, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Even Jesus himself was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17). So, ask yourself, "What should I do?"

What about infant baptism?

While we appreciate and understand traditions within the Christian Church that practice infant baptism, at ONE Community Church we do not baptize infants or young children. Baptism is a response to a personal decision to follow Christ.

But I was already baptized as a child

If you were baptized as a child, can you recall how that was a joyous step of obedience and public commitment to Jesus? I encourage you to be baptized as a believer, aware of your faith and commitment to Christ. Although believer baptism may seem a bit strange to some, one of the greatest joys of the Christian life is taking this step.

How old do I need to be to be baptized?

There is no firm age, but we would prefer children to be at least 10 or 11. The key is that you can genuinely share that you believe in Jesus, that you have asked him to be the lord of your life and that you are living for Him. It's not enough for parents or grandparents to want their kids to be baptized. The child on his or her own must be able to express their faith and why they want to be baptized.

I've never given my life to Jesus. Where do I start?

Just ask him. Tell him how you have fallen short. With sincerity in your heart ask him to

forgive you for your sins and to give you a fresh start. Tell him you believe he is the son of God and that he died for your sins and then rose from the grave. Ask him to be the rescuer and leader of your life from this day forward. Say it in whatever way is comfortable to you – that's praying!

I'm a Christian, but I'm not perfect!

Good. You're real then. You don't have to be a perfect Christian (whatever that means) to be obedient and be baptized. You just have to be a Christian who loves God and seeks to grow and follow Jesus. Encourage other Christians, family and friends by taking this step of obedience. Let everyone know you belong to God. Baptism is such a small step that stands for so much. God blesses those who love him and are obedient to his commands.

Are You Ready?

Take the plunge. Be obedient to Jesus. Be baptized.

ACTION STEPS

Think about where you are in your journey of faith and what it means to be obedient to Jesus and his word.

Read these additional scriptures to find out for yourself what baptism really is.

Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:26-38, Galatians 3:26-28, Romans 6:1-12

Pray and ask God to give you peace, joy and courage to take this step in your life.

Be excited about following God and being bold.

Inform the church office that you are ready to be baptized. We will send you a baptism request form. Email office@discoverONE.net or call 480-383-9393.

out of many ...



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