

2. Water baptism is a symbol of a believer's spiritual baptism (placing) into Christ. Since we have been spiritually placed (baptized) into Christ, what events in Christ's life have also happened to us?
Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-4

- a. _____
- b. _____

Baptism is a public testimony identifying a believer with Christ. In New Testament times, slaves were often baptized after they were sold. This showed the community that the slave now belonged to a new master. In the same way, a believer is declaring to everyone that he now belongs to Christ by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:48).

3. One reason to be baptized after we receive Christ is simply because Jesus commands it.

- What will happen to the person who hears God's commandment and doesn't do it? James 1:22

- What will happen to the person who hears God's commandment and does it?

Matthew 7:24-25 _____

John 13:17 _____

John 14:21 _____

Thought Questions

1. For baptism to be Scriptural, when should it be done?
2. For baptism to be Scriptural, how should it be done?
3. According to the Scripture, should a Christian put off being baptized?
4. Why should a Christian be baptized?

What is Baptism?

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. In the New Testament, Jesus gave us a symbolic picture of the eternal truth of our salvation. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart. Baptism doesn't save you; but through it you start to experience the reality of obeying and walking with God. We call baptism an "ordinance" because it was "ordained" and established by Jesus Christ. With this in mind, let's look at what the New Testament has to say about baptism.

WHO?

1. Who should be baptized?

- a. What is the first thing Jesus commands to be done to those who have become His disciples? Matthew 28:19

b. Who did the apostles baptize? Acts 2:41

c. In Acts 10:47-48, who did Peter say should be baptized?

d. Referring to these people who had just become true Christians, Peter:

___ asked them to be baptized

___ commanded them to be baptized

___ suggested that maybe they should be baptized

___ left it as an option

2. Who should baptize?

- a. Is Matthew 28:19 a command only to be baptized or is it also a command to baptize others?

b. According to Matthew 28:19, who can baptize?

- only a minister or priest
- only older believers
- any believer who wants to obey Matthew 28:19

Any faithful believer who leads someone to Christ will baptize him or make sure that he is baptized.

WHEN?

1. How soon after they believed were the following people baptized?
 - a. 3,000 people (Acts 2:41) _____
 - b. Ethiopian official (Acts 8:35-38) _____
 - c. Paul (Acts 9:17-19) _____
 - d. Philippian jailer (Acts 16:32-33) _____
2. Were any of these people baptized before they personally believed in Christ? _____
3. There is no command or example anywhere in the Bible for the baptizing of babies.
 - a. How can we know that baptizing a baby will not help save his soul? Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9 _____
 - b. Today, there are many traditions that have been added to what the Bible teaches. Infant baptism is a tradition that arose long after the death of Christ.

What does God want us to learn? 1 Corinthians 4:6

HOW?

1. Was Jesus baptized by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling?
Mark 1:9-10

The meaning of the word baptism (Greek: baptizo) is to dip our immerse. In the New Testament times the Greek people frequently used the word to refer to “baptizing” their clothes in dye or “baptizing” a cup in dishwater. The meaning of the word shows that baptism should be by full immersion.

WHERE?

1. Where was the Ethiopian official baptized? Acts 8:26-36
2. Where did John the Baptist baptize? Matthew 3:5-6, John 3:23
3. Does baptism have to take place in a church building or baptismal fount? _____

A person can be baptized any place where there is enough water.

WHY?

1. Being baptized does not help obtain eternal salvation.
 - In Romans 1:16, what is God’s power to save us?

 - Is baptism a part of the gospel? 1 Corinthians 1:17
