

# The Meaning and Importance of Baptism

Baptism doesn't make you a Christian – it shows that you already are a Christian. Baptism does not “save” you – only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

## I. Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus. *Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21, 22*
2. Because Christ instructed it. *Matt. 28:19-20*
3. It was faithfully practiced in the early church as a means of public declaration of faith in Christ. *Acts 2:41; 8:12, 35-39; 9:18; 10:48; 16:31-34; 18:8; 19:5*

## II. What Is The Meaning of Baptism

1. It is an illustration of the central message of the Gospel, that Christ died, was buried, and rose again in order that we might have life. *Rom. 10:9-10; I Cor. 15:3-4; I Pet 1:3-5, 18-21*
2. As a picture of burial and resurrection, it portrays what has happened in my life spiritually. *Rom. 6:1-11; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 2:9-12*

## III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Every baptism in the New testament is characterized by this word “baptize”, which means “to immerse or dip under water”.
2. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

## IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ. *Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; Rom. 6:1-11*