

A dynamic splash of blue water with white highlights, centered horizontally and partially obscuring the text.

BAPTISM



IMPACT LIFE CHURCH

1. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The word baptism comes from the greek word **baptizo** which means to *immerse or dip under water*. Water baptism is when a believer is immersed in water upon the confession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.”*

According to this scripture, water baptism is a symbolic proclamation that believers have been buried with Christ and raised with Him in the newness of life.

When a believer goes into the waters of baptism it symbolizes being immersed in one condition and coming out brand new - a move from death to life. We bury the *old life* and we rise to walk in a *new life*. Our entrance into the water identifies us with Christ’s death on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead.

Colossians 2:12-14 in the message paraphrase says, *“Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as He did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ’s cross.”*

It really is humbling and merciful what God did for us through His Son Jesus, however one thing that is important to remember is that baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not save you; only your faith in Christ does that. Ephesians 2:8,9 says *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

2. WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER GETTING BAPTISED?

To follow the example of Christ:

Jesus Himself was baptised. He was not a sinner, yet He humbled Himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

Mark 1:9 MSG *“At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God’s Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”*

It’s An Act of Obedience:

Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20 says, *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

It’s A Public Declaration:

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundational step in the Christian life.

Mark 16:16 MSG, *“Then he said, “Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God’s good news to one and all. Whoever believes and is baptized is saved; whoever refuses to believe is damned.”*

3. WHEN AND WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?

Believers in the New Testament were baptised the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can be, and is encouraged to be baptised.

Acts 2:41 "Those who accepted His message were baptised..."

Acts 8:35-39 "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him."

4. BAPTISM IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE JESUS.

Baptism is an amazing opportunity to proclaim and celebrate what Jesus has done in your life. As discussed already baptism comes after giving your life over to Jesus and for that reason you now have a God Story to tell others. On the day of your baptism you will be given an opportunity to share, and together with your church family, we will celebrate Jesus and your decision of taking this step in your journey with Christ!

We look forward to your BIG DAY!!