

WHY WATER BAPTISM?



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has believed in, trusted, and surrendered to Jesus as God, Savior, and Lord. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian; only trusting in Jesus and His free gift of salvation by grace through faith are you made a Christian. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart and with your life (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

WHY SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

To follow the example set by Jesus- "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." (Mark 1:9)

Because Jesus commanded it- "And Jesus came and said to them, "...Go therefore and make disciples on all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20)

It demonstrates that you are truly a believer and follower of Jesus- "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments." (1 John 2:3)

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

It illustrates the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus- "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)

It illustrates your new life as a Christian- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

WHY BE IMMERSED?

- Because Jesus was baptized by immersion- "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water..." (Matthew 3:16)
- Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion- "...they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39)
- The word "baptize" means "to dip under the water."
- It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection (see Romans 6:1-11)

WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

You can be baptized as soon as you have believed. Baptism should follow your decision to trust Jesus for salvation. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you feel good enough, you will never be ready for baptism. (See Acts 2:41; 8:35-38)

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when someone did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Jesus alone for salvation (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At TNLC, we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the gospel, to trust Jesus alone for salvation, and to understand the proper meaning of baptism. When a child makes the decision to follow Jesus, we gladly baptize them according to Scriptures.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This was a time when the parents pledged their commitment to raise their child according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not Christian baptism. TNLC offers a similar opportunity for parents through our family & baby dedication services. As the purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Jesus, it is strongly recommended that every Christian person be baptized as an adult believer, even if you were "confirmed" as a child.

WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

In the Bible, we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But He did not baptize them, and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. It is biblical to wait until after a personal decision to trust Jesus for salvation has been made by the child. If baptism signifies salvation, as the Bible teaches, only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.

If you have not experienced believer's baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult follower of Jesus.