



Grow Series: Baptism



Welcome Question

“Why do Christ followers get baptized?”

Introduction

Last week we talked about the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an act we participate in that symbolizes the breaking of Jesus Christ’s body and the shedding of His blood on the cross for us and our sins. It is to help us remember His sacrifice, worship, pray and confess our sins.

This week we are talking about baptism! Baptism is a very important act of obedience for a believer of Jesus Christ. But what is baptism exactly?

What is baptism?

Baptism is a visual picture of person’s relationship with Christ by going through His death (going under the water) and His resurrection (being pulled out of the water). It shows others that our old way of life is gone and now we are a new creation in Christ. We’ve been “washed” clean. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *“If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new!”*

Now does baptism really wash away our sins? No! Jesus is the only one who can take away our sins. This is a symbol of what Jesus has already done for us. *(hold up your wedding ring)* Does this wedding ring make me married? No. I had to have a wedding ceremony and sign a legal document. This ring is a symbol, it shows people that I am married. If I take it off, am I still married? Yes. This is just a “picture” showing I am married. Baptism is a symbol. It shows others that our lives are new and different because we follow Jesus.

Why do we get baptized?

Our welcome question today asked, “Why do Christ followers get baptized?”. Let’s go over some of your answers. *(Go over their answers)*.



Baptism is an act of obedience and a testimony (it tells others) about Jesus. That is why we believe we should be immersed (put totally under water) in baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We also do this because Jesus did it first. Jesus was actually baptized by a guy named John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin and his job was to prepare the way for the Messiah (as prophesied in Isaiah). He was telling everyone, "Hey, the Rescuer is coming!"

Let's check out in this video what the baptism of Jesus might have looked like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAmwA>

Now that we've got that picture in our head, let's read the story from Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

This was a major moment for a couple of reasons. 1) Jesus starts his official ministry now. No longer is he going to work for his earthly father, Joseph, as a carpenter. He's going to do His Father, God's, work and God is very pleased with him! This is also the start of Jesus' road to righteousness through His death on the cross. 2) Jesus is identified, by God's audible voice, that this is the anointed one, this is the Rescuer.

When we are baptized like Jesus, we tell everyone our true identity is now found in Jesus Christ. Jesus told the world with His baptism, "hey, I'm God's son, I'm the Rescuer" and we tell the world "Hey, i'm with him!" Romans 6:11 says, "So you also



must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Baptism shows to everyone that we are done with all that sin and alive in Christ.

Who should get baptized?

Does baptism then magically make you a Christ follower? Nope. It’s just normal water in there. Becoming a Christ Follower a decision made in your heart when you understand that He died on a cross to save you from your sins. Jesus has to transform you inside first, before you can tell everyone outside. Only those whose lives are transformed by Him should be baptized.

Conclusion

Baptism is a celebration! You are joining God’s family and telling the world about that decision. Jesus even told His disciples before He left them, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* Matthew 28:19. Jesus wanted to add more to His family, he wants people to know of His sacrifice on the cross because He loves them so much. It can be a little scary getting up there in front of everyone, but it’s important to proclaim to everyone that you belong to Jesus.

Memory Verse: *“If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new!”* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Close in Prayer