

## WATER BAPTISM

According to the Bible, to be baptized in water means to be immersed in water after being born again. The order of your relationship and experience in the Lord is to first receive salvation and to then be baptized in water. (Mark 16:16)

Water baptism thus is the outward act of public identification with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is the outward testimony of the change that has taken place inside a person's heart as a result of believing in Jesus.

### I. How do I identify with Christ in Baptism?

- a. We are crucified with Christ through REPENTANCE. Turning from sin to Christ!
  - i. Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ...”
  - ii. Romans 6:6,7 – “...our old man was crucified ...”
- b. We are buried with Christ
  - i. Normally, when a person dies, a funeral service is conducted for them and they are buried. This is also true spiritually. After receiving Christ as Savior and “dying” to our old way of life we are “buried” with Christ in the act of baptism.
  - ii. Romans 6:4 – “Therefore we were buried with Him...even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
- c. We are raised with Christ
  - i. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we identify with His resurrection when we come up out of the waters of baptism. Symbolically, when we come up out of the water after being baptized, we are raised from death to live a whole new life free from the power of sin! (Romans 6:5,8)
  - ii. As a result of this dying, being buried, and being resurrected again, our daily lives should reflect the changes that baptism symbolizes. This is why baptism is so important! It is an outward picture to a lost world of what has happened to us when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. (Romans 6:11-13)

### II. When should baptism be done?

- a. It is to follow belief in Jesus Christ as Savior. Mark 16:15,16
- b. Jesus commanded the church. Matthew 28:19,20
- c. The Apostle Peter proclaimed it. Acts 2:36-38
- d. It's a pledge of good conscience towards God. I Peter 3:21

### III. Biblical examples of baptism

- a. Believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
- b. Men and women of Samaria (Acts 8:12)
- c. Ethiopian government official (Acts 8:38)
- d. Paul's baptism (Acts 9:18)
- e. Lydia the business woman (Acts 16:14,15)
- f. The Philippi an jailer (Acts 16:33)
- g. Believers in Corinth and Ephesus (Acts 18:8; 19:5)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### How is baptism supposed to be done?

The word “Baptism” as found in the Bible is a Greek word that means, “to immerse, dip, wash, or drench” when translated into English. Because of the importance of the symbolism and

identification involved in baptism there is only one method that is acceptable Biblically - full immersion. The person is totally submerged in water. (Mark 1:9-11; Acts 8:38,39)

### **Where is baptism to be done?**

Baptism can be done anywhere there is enough water to immerse a person. It can be done in a church, in a river, a swimming pool, a lake, or in an ocean. Baptism must be a public ceremony. It is a public declaration of identification with Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:36)

### **Should I be "re-baptized" if I was baptized as a baby?**

As stated, baptism is an outward testimony of something that has happened inside, and a public identification with Jesus Christ. It follows logically that babies cannot understand the Gospel message and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, so it would be meaningless to baptize them.

Infant baptism is not a BIBLICAL practice that is a church tradition. There is no record of an infant ever being baptized in the Bible. So, if you were baptized as an infant, when you accept Jesus as your Savior, **YES**, you do need to be baptized again by **immersion**, to fully identify with Jesus Christ. (Luke 2:21,22)

### **When is a person baptized into Christ?**

According to Acts 10:43 as soon as Cornelius' household believed they had everlasting life as promised by Jesus in John 6:47.

Please understand that not all baptism mentioned in the Bible refers to water. (Galatians 3:27, I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5)