



# WHAT IS BAPTISM?

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*grace*  
**BIBLE CHURCH**

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

BAPTISM IS A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. JESUS TAUGHT THAT BAPTISM IS ONE ELEMENT OF BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF HIM (MATTHEW 28:19-20). THE APOSTLE PAUL TAUGHT THAT BAPTISM IS A PICTURE, OR **SYMBOL**, OF OUR SALVATION AND UNITY WITH CHRIST (ROMANS 6:1-6), MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BY HIS GRACE (EPHESIANS 2:4-9).

BAPTISM IS NOT FOR SALVATION, BUT A WAY FOR BELIEVERS TO PUBLICLY IDENTIFY WITH THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS AND PROCLAIM THEIR FAITH IN HIM FOR SALVATION AND THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS. MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST ARE BAPTIZED IN JESUS' NAME AS THOSE WHO HAVE *ALREADY* BEEN SAVED BY HIM. THUS, GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS VIEWED THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM AS HAVING GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

THE NEW TESTAMENT GREEK WORD FOR "BAPTIZE" MEANS "TO IMMERSE." THEREFORE, THE CHRISTIAN'S BAPTISM SHOULD BE IMMERSION IN WATER.

## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

BAPTISM IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED IN THE GOSPEL. THIS GOOD NEWS IS THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE SINFUL ENEMIES OF GOD BY NATURE, GOD HAS COME TO US BY TAKING ON FLESH IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE SON OF GOD HIMSELF PAID THE INFINITE PRICE WE OWED FOR OUR SINS BY DYING ON THE CROSS AND RISING AGAIN, SO THAT ALL WHO **BELIEVE IN HIS FINISHED WORK ALONE FOR SALVATION** ARE RECONCILED TO GOD ONCE FOR ALL TIME.

THOSE WHO REJECT THIS GOSPEL MESSAGE AND CHILDREN WHO ARE UNABLE TO BELIEVE SHOULD NOT AND WILL NOT BE BAPTIZED AT GRACE BIBLE CHURCH. ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED TO GOD TO EMBRACE THE FULLNESS OF HIS GRACE IN THE GOSPEL SHOULD BE BAPTIZED. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS DONE FOR SALVATION; IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS DONE AFTER A PERSON HAS BEEN UNITED TO CHRIST BY GENUINE FAITH.

## WHEN SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

IF YOU'VE BELIEVED THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND DESIRE TO FOLLOW THE LORD'S COMMAND AND BE BAPTIZED, WE WOULD LOVE TO BE INVOLVED. LET US KNOW THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS STEP OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD, AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP WILL COUNSEL YOU ON THE NEXT STEPS.