



## Water Baptism & your Child

IT STARTS AT HOME—  
*WHERE WE BELIEVE  
PARENTS ARE THE  
PRIMARY SPIRITUAL  
INFLUENCE IN THEIR  
KIDS LIVES.*

Dear Parents/guardians

The decision of whether or not your child is ready to be baptized is a big one. Water baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. There is no need to rush your child into this event. It is best when this is something that your child initiates, not you. This is a milestone, that a child can look back on for a lifetime.

I have found that children often begin asking questions about water baptism in 4th or 5th Grade. The Bible does not seem concerned about how old a person is when they are baptized. It focuses on whether a person has received forgiveness from their sins by the blood of Jesus, has decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, and wants to tell others about their decision.

When your child expresses an interest in water baptism, this packet is designed to help you make the decision of whether or not this is the time. I have included scriptures and questions for you to discuss together. A study guide, an article, has been attached to the end of the application for you as the parent .

God Bless you as you raise your children to love and serve Jesus.

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# Water Baptism & your Child

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

## WATER BAPTISM: A STEP OF FAITH

### INTRODUCTION

Baptism is an ordinance of the church commanded by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All who repent of their sin and believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. By this, they declare to their family, friends, and the world that they have died with Christ, and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in a new life.

### HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to help you and your child better understand the significance of baptism. In order to be properly prepared for baptism, please do the following:

1. Pray first that God will help you and your child understand this study and reveal the meaning of the scriptures.
2. Read all the information carefully. If you have any questions after reading please ask Pastor Bear.
3. Discuss the questions with your child, then answer all the questions according to what the Bible says.
4. When you have finished, please bring your completed study guide to Pastor Bear to set up a time to discuss these things further. Your study guide will be returned to you after this session.

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NOTE: PAPERS & CLASS  
MUST BE COMPLETE  
PRIOR TO BAPTISM.

## THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

The word "BAPTISM" means to "dip" or to "immerse" usually in water. When we look at the Bible, this is the way that we see Baptism taking place.

Read Matthew 3 and answer the following questions:

1. What did John command the people to do? (vs. 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did they do that? (vs. 6) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The word "REPENT" means to have a change of direction in heart, mind and soul. John commanded the people to repent from their sins. Then, as a sign that they had made the decision to change, he would immerse them in water to symbolize the washing away of their old life of sins and that when they came out of the water it would symbolize new life.

3. In this chapter, someone special is baptized, who is it? (vs. 13)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Jesus never sinned, as records the scriptures, so why did He say that John should baptize Him? (vs. 15)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the voice say from heaven, after Jesus was baptized?  
(vs. 17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is our example, sent from God, to help us please God and understand what it is God wants from us. By being baptized, Jesus gave us an example to follow. We should want to please God in every way we can. By following the example that He has given, we will please God too.

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Read Romans 6:1-6 NIV and answer the following questions:

6. What are we baptized into? (vs. 3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. We are \_\_\_\_\_ with Him by baptism into His death. (vs. 4)

8. What did God the Father do for Jesus after He died for us?

(vs. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When we are baptized, this symbolizes that we are associating ourselves with the death of Jesus, meaning that we realize that He died for us. When you are immersed under the water, this is when this symbolism takes place.

When you are under the water, this symbolizes that you are associating yourself with the burial of Jesus. When Jesus was buried He took all of our sins and buried them, never to be held against us once we accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

When you come out of the water, this symbolizes that you have a new life. You are no longer in bondage to sin. This does not mean that you will not sin accidentally any more. It does mean that God's power will be there to help you overcome temptation.

#### WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

As we will see in this section, anyone who sincerely repents of their sins and wants to lead a Christian life can and should be baptized. Read Acts 2:36-39

9. What two things does Peter command the people to do? (vs.38)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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10. Of the two things, what does Peter command them to do first?

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11. Why do you think he asked them to do it that way?

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It is important to understand that baptism itself does not save a person. When we repent of our sins, the Bible tells us that God forgives us, this is what saves us.

The Bible does not record anywhere that infants are to be baptized. Until they come to an age where they understand that they are sinners, and they must repent and accept Jesus, they do not need to be baptized according to the Bible. However, children are to be dedicated to the Lord as we see in 1 Samuel 1:20-28 and Luke 2:27.

### THE METHOD OF BAPTISM

As we have already seen, baptism is to be done by immersing the person in water. We want to follow the example of Jesus, and the commands of the Bible as closely as possible. Our church immerses people in water.

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

12. What are we suppose to baptize the people in? (vs. 19)

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Jesus commanded us to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the three person of our one God. In this book of Acts, men were told to be baptized in the name of Jesus. This means that they were to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, or the Messiah. As we follow the command of our Lord, we baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. By this we identify ourselves with God in the way he has revealed Himself, as a Trinity.

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# Preparation for Baptism

APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMITMENT TO JESUS \_\_\_\_\_

Please write out a personal testimony for your baptism.

In may include the following:

1. Why you want to be baptized
2. What your commitment to follow Christ means to you
3. How this commitment has changed your life

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*Please take sometime after completing this packet to decide whether or not your child is ready for water baptism. Contact Pastor Bear to setup a class if your child is ready for this next Big Step!*

## PREPARING FOR THE DAY OF YOUR BAPTISM

- ⇒ BRING A COPY OF YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT (UNLESS VIDEO TAPED AHEAD OF TIME)
- ⇒ TOWEL
- ⇒ WEAR DARK SHIRT & SHORTS (NO BATHING SUITS PLEASE)
- ⇒ BRING A COMPLETE CHANGE OF CLOTHING (INCLUDING UNDERGARMENTS)

## WHICH SERVICE?

1ST

OR

2ND

## TESTIMONY

IN PERSON

OR

VIDEO

# **Be Baptized!**

By G. Raymond Carlson

Baptism is a fundamental issue. To despise this scriptural rite is to despise the command of God.

The Bible leaves no option. Jesus himself made no move toward public ministry until He had been baptized.

But the ordinance gives rise to a number of questions.

Is water baptism essential to salvation? If so, what about the thief on the cross? Was he saved without being baptized?

In which way should one be baptized? By sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?

What is the proper formula to be used? Should baptism be done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit — or simply in the name of Jesus?

When should baptism occur? Immediately after conversion, or should there be a probation period?

All of these are proper questions which deserve our consideration. The Bible gives us the answers.

## ***Is baptism important?***

When issuing the Great Commission Jesus commanded, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Following Peter’s stirring sermon on the Day of Pentecost, the people cried, “What shall we do?”

Without hesitation Peter replied, “Repent, and be baptized” (Acts 2:38).

The New Testament church began at this point. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

Cornelius the soldier told Peter, “Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”

One of those things commanded was water baptism. “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48).

Yes, baptism is important. From the Day of Pentecost whenever conversions are mentioned, they are without exception connected with baptism. In Samaria “when they believed ... they were baptized” (Acts 8:12). The Ethiopian eunuch told Philip, “I believe ...,” and Philip then baptized him (Acts 8:37-39).

To neglect this plain command of the Lord Jesus Christ is a serious act of disobedience.

## ***Does baptism save?***

There are churches that attribute to baptism some prerogatives which belong to God alone: (1) that it has power to work salvation; (2) that its profit is salvation; (3) that its fruit is salvation; and (4) that its end is salvation. This is the teaching of those who believe in baptismal regeneration. If it be correct, then baptism must be Deity personified, taking the place of God.

But the Bible teaches us that salvation is found alone through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism is an act of obedience and speaks of spiritual life begun. As such it is a step to be taken following salvation, and not preceding it.

Baptism is not “putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21).

## ***What method is Biblical?***

The word *baptize* means literally “to dip” or “to immerse.” No stretch of the imagination can make it mean less. Significantly there are eight Greek words in the New Testament used to describe the application of liquids. With this wide choice of words meaning “sprinkle,” “pour,” and “immerse,” only the one meaning “immerse” is used for water baptism.

The Bible establishes these important facts regarding baptism:

*Water is required.* “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

*Much water is needed.* John baptized in Aenon “because there was much water there” (John 3:23). Sprinkling or pouring would not require much water.

*Both the candidate and the administrator went down into the water.* “And they went down both into the water” (Acts 8:38).

*In baptism we are buried.* “We are buried with him by baptism into death” (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12). To bury anything means to cover it.

*The candidate comes up out of the water.* “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went straightway out of the water” (Matthew 3:16). “And when they were come up out of the water...” (Acts 8:39).

### **What formula is correct?**

“Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19). Does this contradict Peter’s command in Acts 2:38? There we read, “Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ.”

There is no contradiction. This latter version does not lay down a formula, but rather describes the reason and purpose of baptism, acknowledging Jesus to be Christ and Lord. When Peter and Paul make references to baptizing in the name of Jesus, they are giving the authority for baptism, and not the formula.

We are baptized into fellowship with the name of the Holy Trinity and in the name (by the authority and command) of Jesus Christ. Whatever we do in word or deed is to be done “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Colossians 3:17).

### **What is the significance?**

A father and mother were about to be baptized in water. Their little son, unfamiliar with religious terminology, proudly announced, “Mom and Dad are going to be advertised tonight.”

The boy’s word choice was wrong, but in a sense it wasn’t all that bad. All believers who obey this command of Christ truly advertise their faith.

Water baptism accomplished three important purposes:

*The gospel is proclaimed.* First Corinthians 15:3-4 defines the gospel: “How that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” Baptism, like the Lord’s Supper, shows the Lord’s death. The work of Christ on Calvary and His resurrection are portrayed. The cleansing from sin is symbolized. The public sees what you believe.

The Bible clearly states that we are saved by grace through faith. That’s the gospel. But faith is active, not passive (James 2:18). We express our faith by water baptism and thus proclaim the gospel.

*Our experience is pictured.* Baptism portrays conversion. “Old things are passed away ... all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Immediately after a person dies, preparations are made for a burial. When we are converted, we die to the old life, and preparation should be made to bury that old life. Baptism portrays our identification with Christ in a spiritual death, burial, and resurrection. (See Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:12).

*Our hope is declared.* In baptism we display our belief in the resurrection from the dead. Jesus said, “Because I live, ye shall live also” (John 14:19).

### **Who should be baptized?**

The answer is very simple. The Bible teaches that believers and believers only should be baptized. The sinner must first repent and believe. (See Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38.) In every instance the test is individual faith.

What about infant baptism? This takes away the meaning of the ordinance. There must be a personal sense of need, of guilt, before there can be an act of repentance and saving faith. Children, until they come to the age of accountability, are not expected to exercise saving faith. An infant can’t repent, can’t be converted, can’t believe in Jesus. The Bible never commands infant baptism, and there is no Scriptural example of it.

### **When should baptism occur?**

The Ethiopian official was baptized immediately (Acts 8:36-38). Paul was baptized within hours after conversion (Acts 9:17-19).

Cornelius and his household obeyed the Lord the very day that saving faith came (Acts 10:47-48). Lydia and her household were baptized shortly after their conversion (Acts 16:14-15).

The Philippian jailer obeyed within the hour (Acts 16:33). The 3000 on the Day of Pentecost believe and were baptized immediately (Acts 2:41).

Christians have no choice but to obey Christ’s command. The idea of an unbaptized believer never occurs in the New Testament.

Have you obeyed this important command of our Lord Jesus Christ?