

BAPTISM

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I. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

1. The Greek word for “baptism” is “baptizo”, meaning, “immersion.” Baptism in water means immersion into water.

II. WHY SHOULD PEOPLE TAKE BAPTISM?

- ❖ **Matthew 28:19-20** “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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- ❖ **Acts 2:38** “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Why should you take baptism? *Because the Word of God commands. The unbaptized believers are not obeying the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Note: The question is not whether an unbaptized person will go to heaven or hell; it is whether he/she is obeying the Lord Jesus or not.

2. To those who believe in Christ, is baptism an option or mandatory? *Baptism is a mandatory act, not an option*

Remember, the Lord Jesus Himself was baptized by John. He said to John, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15). Jesus was baptized because it was the right thing in the Father’s sight.

III. WHAT DOES BAPTISM SYMBOLIZE?

- ❖ **Acts 2:38** “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- ❖ **Acts 22:16** “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”

1. What does water baptism symbolize? *Water Baptism is symbolic of washing away our sins in Christ Jesus*

- ❖ **Romans 6:4 [cf. Col. 2:11-12]** “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.”

2. What does water baptism symbolize? *Water baptism is a symbolic union with Christ in His death and burial to old life and in His resurrection to new life*

- ❖ **Galatians 3:27-28** “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

3. What does water baptism symbolize? *Baptism symbolizes oneness with Christ and oneness of believers in Christ*

IV. WHO SHOULD TAKE BAPTISM?

- ❖ **Mark 16:16** “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

1. According to Acts 16:30-33, before taking baptism, what was the Philippian jailor told to do? *Believe in the Lord Jesus*

2. According to Acts 2:38, what comes before baptism? *Repent*

3. Who should take baptism? *Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and repent of their sins*

4. If a person takes baptism without sincere belief in Christ and genuine repentance, is such baptism biblically valid? *No*

V. WHEN SHOULD PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?

1. According to Acts 8:34-38, when was Eunuch baptized? *Eunuch was baptized immediately after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. According to Acts 16:14-15, when was Lydia baptized? *Lydia, along with her household, was baptized immediately after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. According to Acts 16:30-33, when was the jailer baptized? *The jailer, along with his household, was baptized immediately after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

4. What was Paul told in Acts 22:16? *And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name*

Therefore, baptism is taken immediately after repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: Infant baptism is unbiblical because there is no act of belief and repentance in a child.

VI. HOW SHOULD PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?

1. According to Matthew 28:19, in whose name you must take baptism? *Baptism must be taken in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
2. According to Acts 8:38, how was Eunuch baptized? [cf. Mark 1:5; 1:9-10; Jn. 3:23] *Eunuch went down into the water and got baptized.*

Therefore, baptism is taken in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit by being immersed into the water.

Remember, the Greek word for baptism is to dip or immerse into the water.

VII. WHO SHOULD GIVE BAPTISM?

1. Does the Great Commission apply to every Christian? If yes, according to Jesus' exhortation in Matthew 28:19-20, how would every disciple of Christ make disciples?
2. Does the Bible anywhere emphasize on who should give baptism or on the importance of baptism itself?
3. In his pastoral epistles, i.e. 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus, did Paul delegate the responsibility of giving baptism to the elders or pastors?
4. According to the Holy Bible, which one is a challenging responsibility? Leading a person to repentance or baptizing people?

Therefore, any believer can preach the gospel, lead people to Christ and baptize them.

QUESTIONS:

1. Should baptism be taken without salvation? If so, is such baptism biblically valid?

Baptism is an act after salvation, not before. (Mark 16:15; Acts 2:38...etc.) It is like trying to wear a wedding ring without marriage covenant.

2. Does baptism by itself save an individual?

Baptism by itself is not salvation; it is an act of obedience after repentance. We are saved only by the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

3. Should one need to take baptism only after reaching maturity?

Baptism is taken not for maturity. It is an initial, symbolic act, which expresses our new life in Christ. It is like a wedding ring. We don't wear a ring after reaching maturity in marriage.

4. Should a person consider living for Christ after believing in Him or after taking baptism?

Many believe in Christ but are apprehensive to take baptism. It is like making a marriage covenant but afraid to put wedding ring, fearing this would call for total commitment. Marriage itself is a commitment. Similarly, believing in Christ itself is a commitment to follow Christ and baptism is simply a symbolic confirmation.

5. Will a person stop sinning after baptism?

Baptism is not for perfection; it is an initial act in the process of sanctification.