

I. Why should I be baptized?

A. To follow the example set by Christ.

- “In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (Mark 1:9)

B. Because Christ Commanded it.

- “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.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

C. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

- “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.” (1 John 2:3)

II. What is the meaning of baptism?

A. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

- “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

B. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- “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.” (Romans 6:4)

C. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian.

- Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart.
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. Why be baptized by immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

- “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.” (Matthew 3:16)

B. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

- (For example) Acts 8:38-39 “... and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.”

C. The word “baptize” means “to immerse” or “to dip under water.”

D. It best symbolizes the death and resurrection.

- See Romans 6:1-11

IV. Who should be baptized?

Every person who believes in Jesus as Savior. A Believer is someone who realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A Believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey then you are ready to be baptized.

V. What about children/infants?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the person did not request it. All instances of baptism have followed an individual's decision to trust in Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At Painesville Assembly we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them into the Christian faith. If you have not received adult baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life.

VI. When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have believed. Acts 8:12, “But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are “good” enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM

