



THE ARK CHURCH

WATER BAPTISM



What is the meaning of water baptism?

- It symbolizes and illustrates Christ's death and resurrection
 - For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - **Buried with Him** in baptism, in which you also **were raised with Him through faith** in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Colossians 2:12
 - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death**?... For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. Romans 6:3,5
- It symbolizes and illustrates my new life as a Christian
 - Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**. Romans 6:4
- Baptism doesn't save you or make you a Christian only your faith in Christ does that - it shows that you already believe. Baptism is the outward proclamation of your personal commitment to Christ.
 - For by grace **you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of

works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Who should be water baptized?

- Everyone who has accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord and surrendered their lives to Him. Believing that Jesus is God the Son who died for the sins of the world and is the only way to have a relationship with God and live with Him eternally.
 - 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... **Those who accepted his message were baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:38,41
 - But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women **were baptized**. Acts 8:12
 - See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, **"If you believe with all your heart, you may."** And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and **he baptized him**. Acts 8:36-38
 - Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed on the Lord** with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, **believed and were baptized**. Acts 18:8
 - The pattern in scripture is repentance of sin and a belief in Christ before baptism. So an individual, no matter

what age, must first have a relationship with Christ before being baptized.

Why should I be water baptized?

- To follow the example that Jesus set for us
 - It came to pass in those days that **Jesus** came from Nazareth of Galilee and **was baptized** by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:9
- To obey Jesus' command to be baptized
 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. Matthew 18:19-20
- The Bible commands us to baptize (Matthew 28:19) and be baptized (Acts 2:38-41). It is a public act of obedience and identification with Jesus. In biblical times as well as in some countries today, to publicly identify yourself with Jesus in this manner would mean losing your job, being ostracized from your family and potentially being run out of town or killed.

What is the biblical pattern for water baptism?

- Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion including Jesus' baptism
 - When He had been baptized, **Jesus came up immediately from the water**; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. Matthew 3:16
 - And immediately, **coming up out of the water**, He (Jesus) saw the heavens parting and the Spirit

descending upon Him like a dove.
Mark 1:10

- So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch **went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8:38-39
- Baptism by immersion symbolizes the end of the old way of life as we are dipped under the water and the new life we have in Christ as we come up out of the water. The person who was previously dead in sin has been made spiritually alive.
 - The Greek word in scripture for baptism is "baptizo" which means "to immerse" or "to dip under water".
 - There is also an important parallel between God's Old Covenant with Israel and God's New Covenant through Jesus. In the Old Testament, we see the sprinkling of blood to cover, cleanse, and set things apart for God (see Exodus 24:6 & 8 and Leviticus 8:11,19, & 30). Under the New Covenant we are washed in the blood of the Lamb of God and made truly clean. Similar to baptism by immersion, we are identified with Jesus' death and resurrection and washed clean to be able to walk in our new life in Christ.

When can I be water baptized?

- As soon as you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord and believed in Him to save you and give you new life.
 - Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and **that day**

about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:41

- And now **why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 22:16
- So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."... And **immediately he and all his family were baptized.** Acts 16:31,33

What if I was sprinkled as a baby or a child?

- If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord then you should follow His example and obey His command to be baptized by immersion. (Believer's Baptism)

Can my child be water baptized?

- Yes – If they have received Jesus as their Savior and Lord and understand the meaning of baptism.