

## Discipleship + Baptism



Discipleship is what Christ called us to; to be disciples and make disciples. God intended us to be disciples who are baptised.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Baptism is one of the issues that can cause division between believers.

**Baptism** This is not an English word. When we look at the Greek to English translation, it is used in talking about washing. It could be talking about ‘Dipping’, ‘Dunking’, ‘Immersing’, or ‘Drenched’. It isn’t always used in connection with water.

One of the problems of a word that is transliterated rather than translated is that the average reader isn’t sure what it means! If we were to replace the commandment to be “Baptised” with one of the translated words then maybe there would be less disagreement about the command!

## Repent, Believe, and Be Baptised

There seems to be a suggestion of an order to do these things...

**Repent** - turn from your old life - a decision of the mind?

**Believe** - take it to heart that Jesus is your saviour - a decision of the heart?

**Be baptised** - a decision of the body? A physical act with a very spiritual dimension.

Baptism is a declaration to this physical world... and the spiritual world that you belong to the kingdom of King Jesus.

## Questions to ask myself

When I have disagreements over doctrine... what leads me?

Where does my ‘purity of doctrine’ harm ‘unity in the Spirit’? Is this led by me ‘helping God’ or by God helping me?

What issues do I think are worth ‘dying on this hill’ for? Do I need to reassess... and ask the Lord to speak to me on a particular issue?

Baptism is not meant to be a point of division but a point of obedience. As we submit to the Lordship of God in our lives it is natural that our hearts desire is to declare publicly our faith in Him. If we really want to be a disciple of Christ we will be ready to follow Christ into the water of baptism. We die to our old life of pleasing ourself... and are raised into a new life of wanting to please the Father.

## PRAY

God is so kind and gentle with us, and don’t forget **discipleship is a journey**. Baptism is both a physical and spiritual act that launches us on this journey.

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak into **your** situation.

Ask him to reveal to you that barrier you have in front of you.

For those yet to be baptised; what is that barrier? It might be a good idea to speak to someone about it.

For those who have been baptised; In what area of my life is the Holy Spirit nudging me about? As we’re reminded of the day we died to self in the water... talk to God about what your heart is attracted to.