



**What is the Meaning of Baptism  
by Immersion?**

A: It illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)

B: It illustrates my new life as a Christian (2 Corinthians 5:17)

C: It does not make you a Christian! Baptism is like a wedding ring: An outward sign of an inward reality. (1 Peter 3:18ff)

D: The word baptize means "to dip under water" and it best symbolized a burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-11) Martin Luther [Founder of the Lutheran Church] "I would have those who are to be baptized be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies." John Calvin, a great theologian wrote: "The word baptize signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
ABOUT

# Baptism

AT THE BRIDGE BIBLE CHURCH



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## Who should get baptized?

Every follower of Jesus. A follower of Jesus is someone who has embraced the truth that “Salvation belongs to the Lord” (Jonah 2:9). Since God does the saving, this must mean that while we need to be saved, we cannot save ourselves. Since salvation does not start with us, but with God, a follower of Jesus has given up all efforts to save themselves, including being a good person or going to church. That is what we might call the “DO” system, otherwise known as religion: “I obey so that God can accept me. I try the best I can in the hopes that God will accept me.” We have better news: Jesus Christ lived the perfect life we could not live and died the death we deserve. God accepted Jesus’ work on our behalf and so followers of Jesus live out of the framework of grace: “I am accepted, therefore I obey.” This is the “DONE” system. When Jesus cried out from the cross “It is finished”, He meant it! The price was paid for the complete forgiveness of all of your sins and three days later He made a public service announcement to all of creation by walking away from the tomb having conquered Satan, sin and death! The punishment we deserved fell on Jesus and now by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus’ alone we have a restored relationship with our loving Father. It truly is a whole new world.

## Why?

I know we’re out of order here, but after that first paragraph, “Why not?” How could we not want to obey Jesus’ teaching and be baptized? Here are a few answers from Scripture of why we should be baptized:

A: To follow Jesus’ example (Matthew 3:13ff)

B: To obey Jesus’ teaching (Mat. 28:18ff)

C: To demonstrate publicly that I am really a follower of Jesus (1 John 2:3)

## What about Infant Baptism?

The Bible has no example of baptism when the candidate did not request it after trusting Jesus. The practice of infant baptism is found no where in the Bible. There were times when parents brought children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them, but never baptized them or taught us that we should. Our practice is to dedicate the new life God entrusts us with to the Lord in a public way, asking the blessing of God on the child and parents as well as pledging our support as a community. We honor the clear biblical practice of baptism of believers and we would encourage all of you [both new to the faith and those who have been baptized as infants] to take this step of faith and obedience and be baptized according to the biblical pattern of baptism after personal faith in Jesus.

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. Acts 8:12

## When Should I Be Baptized?

**A.S.A.B:** **A**s **S**oon **A**fter **B**elief in Jesus as possible.

“Those who believed were baptized that day!”  
Acts 2:41

## Other Details

We recommend but do not require a pre-baptism course called “IMMERSE” that dives in even deeper to the experience of baptism. In that course we go through all the details of what to wear, what to say etc... We want this to be a big day of celebration for you! We are grateful to God that you have taken the time to explore the prompting of the Holy Spirit to read this and we look forward to seeing you take the plunge!

For more questions or to interact with someone deeper, contact: [bridgebible@gmail.com](mailto:bridgebible@gmail.com)