

Water Baptism

After Jesus was baptized He was driven into the desert and tempted for 40 days. Then as He came out of the desert, He immediately began His public ministry. Jesus' baptism was not to remove sin, because Jesus had no sin, but as an example for us. Our baptism is not the action itself that removes our sin, but it brings us into a relationship with Jesus through obedience that demonstrates our faith in Him. This baptism further connects us with God through Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. Through Jesus' baptism, He demonstrates His belief in us as His followers and that we are in Him. Baptism is not a magic act but shows how we believe in the future benefits of Christ's death and resurrection to us and every one of us. Our moment of baptism stands out as one specific, pure example of our relationship with Jesus Christ and that we are sure that Jesus Christ is in solidarity with us. This is like a stake in the ground, similar to the mile markers on a highway. We can always look back to this point in our Christian walk and say, this where Christ freed me from my bondage to sin and made me a new creation. It is by our total giving of ourselves to Christ and through that covenant and Christ's promise; Christ's totally giving Himself to us that Christ may remove our sins.¹

1. Where and how was Jesus baptized? Who was pleased with Him? (Matt. 3:13-17)

2. Why should I be baptized? (Matt. 28:16-20)

3. What did the Apostles teach about water baptism? (Acts 2:37-38)

4. Who is baptism for? (Acts 8:12-15)

5. What are the requirements for receiving baptism? (Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10)

6. In the New Testament when were people baptized? (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 36-38; 16:33)

7. Define the word baptize / baptism? (Acts 8:36-39; Mark 1:5)

The definition of baptism is: "to dip, to plunge, to immerse...in these examples "to put into or under water so as to entirely immerse or submerge". Strong's defines the word to "dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk), to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe to overwhelm.

8. What does baptism mean to a Christian? What are Christians dead to? What are Christians alive in? (Romans 6:1-23)

(Optional: For those ages 12 and above)

9. How does water baptism follow the Jewish rite of circumcision? Explain? (Col. 2:8-14 & Romans 2:28-29)

10. Into what name are Christians to be baptized? (Matt. 28:18-20)

11. How do Christians validate the belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? (James 2:17-18) (See answer to #8)

12. After a Christian is raised with Christ through baptism, where should they set their heart? (Col. 3:1)

¹ Adapted from The Church in the New Testament by Kevin Conner

Answers: Water Baptism Answers

1. By His cousin John in the river Jordan. God, His Father.
2. To follow Christ's example and command.
3. They called all to repent and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
4. To all men and women who believe in Jesus Christ.
5. We are to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as our Lord and believe in our heart that Jesus was raised from the dead.
6. Those who accepted the message, when they heard the Good News when they believed with all their heart, and immediately upon hearing the word of God.
7. Total bodily submersion and reappearance from the water.
8. Through the act of baptism, we are following and demonstrating our belief in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. We are dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.
9. John Wesley says: We "have received the spiritual blessings typified of old by circumcision. With a circumcision not performed with hands - By an inward, spiritual operation. In putting off, not a little skin, but the whole body of the sins of the flesh - All the sins of your evil nature. By the circumcision of Christ - By that spiritual circumcision which Christ works in your heart."²
10. The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.
11. Through our baptism and other works of obedience.
12. To set our heart upon the things above with Christ.

² John Wesley's Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible.