

Baptism
An Important Invitation
By John Wandsnider
Tri-State Community Church

Jesus has invited each of us to become a member of His family. We joined His family, becoming His children, when we trusted Jesus as our personal Savior (received Jesus into our lives). Baptism is simply an outward sign of accepting this invitation. It represents our decision to walk with Jesus and to join Jesus' family.

Answer the following questions concerning Baptism, as a group.

Who?

1. According to the following passages, what is needed for a person to 'qualify' (or be ready) to be baptized (with water)? Also, who should be the one to do the Baptizing?
 - *"⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."* - **Acts 2:41**
 - *"⁴⁷ 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.'⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days."* - **Acts 10:47-48**
 - *"¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them (his disciples) and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...'"* - **Matthew 28:18-20**

Consider: Have you been baptized? Would you like to be baptized? If so, who would you like to baptize you?

When?

2. According to the following passages, when should a person be baptized - as a baby, before they believe in Jesus, or after they believe in Jesus? How long should a person wait to be baptized?
 - *"⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."* - **Acts 2:41**
 - *"³¹ They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized."* - **Acts 16:31-33**

Consider: If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, and you have not yet been baptized, when should you be baptized?

How?

3. Today, there are many traditions about baptism. Some sprinkle water on the person, some pour water on them, and others fully immerse the person in water. What is the example from the Bible of how baptism is to be done, according to the following passages?

- *“⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.” - Mark 1:9-10*
- *“³⁶ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing”. - Acts 8:38-39*

Where?

4. According to the following passages, where can a person be baptized? Should it be in a church or some other religious location, or can it happen anywhere there is enough water?
 - *“³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁷ Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” - Acts 8:36-38*
 - *“⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.” – Matthew 3:5-6*

Why?

5. According to the following passages, what role does spiritual baptism play in connecting us with Christ? – in connecting us spiritually with other Christians?
 - *“¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.” – Colossians 2:12*
 - *“¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” - Acts 8:36-39*
6. How is water baptism symbolic of spiritual baptism?
 - *“¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them (his disciples) and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” - Matthew 28:18-20*
7. Is baptism a requirement to get to Heaven?
 - *“³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.” – Acts 16:30-32*

Consider: Baptism is an important step in walking with Jesus. It is the way in which you declare to the world, “I have decided to walk with Jesus”. You are also joining with others that are walking with Jesus.

If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, and you have not yet been baptized, would you like to be baptized? Talk with a fellow Christian about how you could be baptized.