

# Water Baptism

## Introduction

- A. This is a subject that is an important foundational teaching in the Christian Faith.
- B. It is considered an ordinance given to the Church by the Lord. An Ordinance meaning it was commanded by the Lord Jesus himself for all Christians to obey.
- C. It is an ordinance that the early Church considered of extreme importance.

## **Question: What are the Origins of Baptism?**

1. Historians believe that Water Baptism originated from Judaism.
2. Historians believe that Water Baptism was practiced by Jews on Non-Jews that wanted to convert to Judaism from their Pagan religions to following the God of Israel.
3. Another origin of baptism might be found in **Leviticus 16:4** where Aaron was commanded by the Lord to bathe with water before he put on the holy linen garments upon entering the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.
4. It represented a symbolic cleansing of purification and represented acceptance within the Jewish community.
5. In the New Testament, we see John the Baptist water baptizing to represent a baptism of repentance and believing in the coming of the Messiah (Jesus).
6. We see in the New Testament that Jesus' disciples were baptizing people during Jesus' public ministry (**John 4:1-2**) and after Jesus ascended to heaven (**Acts 2:41, Acts 8, Acts 19**).

## Question: What is Baptism?

1. It comes from the Greek word "*Baptisma*" which means immersion or submersion and the word "*Baptizo*" which means to dip repeatedly, to immerse, and to submerge as in a sunken vessel. It can also figuratively mean to overwhelm.  
*Thayer and Smith's Greek Lexicon and Bible Dictionary.*
2. The word Baptize/Baptism is mentioned at least 100 times in the New Testament.

## Question: Why should we be Water Baptized?

1. It's a command. **Matthew 28:18-20. Acts 10:47-48.**
2. Jesus was Water Baptized. **Matthew 3:13-17. Mark 1:9-11. Luke 3:21-22.**

## Question: What's the significance of Water Baptism?

1. We identify with Jesus in the waters of Baptism. **Romans 6:1-11. Colossians 2:12**
2. It is an outward sign of an inward work of what God has done in our hearts.
3. It represents that the person being baptized is a "new creation" in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17.**
4. It represents a clean break from our past life, where our "Old Man" is dead and buried as we go down in the water and that our "New Man" has been raised to life by God as we come up out of the water.
5. It's a public statement that we are no longer slaves of sin and that we will offer our bodies as instruments of righteousness.
6. It's a proclamation that if we have been united with him in his death and burial, we will also be united with him in his resurrection.

## Question: When should a person be Water Baptized?

1. Believers were usually baptized the same day as they repented of their sins and put their faith in Jesus. **Acts 2:41, Acts 8:35**
2. While getting baptized the same day was the practice in the New Testament, it's often not possible the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ,

they can and should be **encouraged** to be water baptized as soon as possible. **Acts 10:48.**

### **Question: Can only specific people Water Baptize Christians?**

While the bible doesn't explicitly address this question, it would seem from the rest of the scripture that those who baptized new believers were those who had been born again and had been water baptized. What this means is that all born-again, water-baptized believers are welcome to baptize new believers who have put their faith in Christ. **Matthew 28:18-20**

### **Conclusion**

1. Water Baptism is a command that all Christians should obey.
2. Although important, Water Baptism in and of itself is not what saves us. **Acts 16:31, Romans 10: 8-13**

**Note: We are baptized after being Born Again, not to become Born Again.**

3. Water Baptism should be done by immersion in water after a person has repented of their sins and put their faith in Jesus.

**There is no scriptural evidence for Infant Baptism in the Bible.**

4. It should be the first step a new believer should take after making a profession of faith in Christ.