

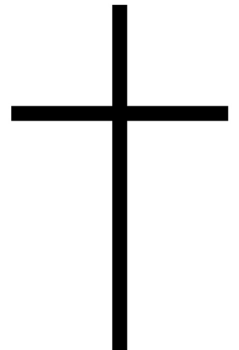
# *WATER*



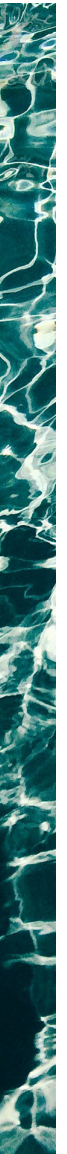
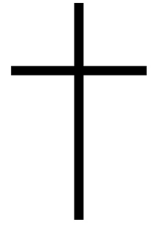
# *BAPTISM*

**ACTS 22:15-16**

**AND NOW, WHY DELAY? GET UP AND BE  
BAPTIZED, AND HAVE YOUR SINS WASHED  
AWAY, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE  
LORD.**



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT WATER BAPTISM



## **WHAT is the significance of water baptism?**

Baptism is a symbol of a covenant and commitment, much like a wedding ring. This ring does not make them married; the promise and the covenant they made to each other makes them married. The ring is a symbol to others of that promise and covenant they made in their hearts to each other. Like the wedding ring, baptism is a symbol which testifies before God and man of the promise and covenant a person has made in his heart with Jesus.

At the same time, baptism is more than just a symbol. There is a very real spiritual work that is accomplished in the waters of baptism (Colossians 2:11-12). According to these verses, God cuts away the old sin-loving nature and circumcises our hearts. There is a cutting, and there is a burial.

Baptism is identifying with Jesus' death. It is like saying to the Lord Jesus, "Your death is my death - I no longer have to die for my sins (Romans 3:23). As you are laid down in the water, you die to your old self. And as you are brought back up out of the water, you experience the new life and resurrection that belong to you through Jesus.

## **WHO should be water baptized?**

Only those who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ as their Lord, by turning away from sin and trusting in Him, should be baptized. For this reason, we do not baptize babies. While babies may be dedicated to the Lord from birth, baptism is for believers. Babies do not believe, nor do they need to. They have no awareness of God and no guilt of sin.

## **WHY should a person be water baptized?**

- a. Jesus commands it (Matthew 28:19-20).
- b. Jesus was baptized (Mark 1:9-11). We follow His example in baptism. We also follow His example expressed in His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation identifies with Jesus' death at the cross. Water baptism identifies with His burial. Being filled with the Holy Spirit identifies with Him in His resurrection.

c. **Baptism is an act of confession and identification. It has no power to take away your sin or make you right with God. Baptism is a demonstration of your covenant with God and your commitment to Christ.**

d. **Baptism is a time in which the Lord will deliver and heal problem areas in your life. When the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, the Scripture tells us that this was a “baptism” for them in which the Lord delivered them from their enemies. Come to your baptism with faith that the Lord can deliver you from your enemies. (Colossians 2:11-13)**

e. **Baptism is a time to expect victory over sin (Romans 6:1-9). You can also expect God to touch your life in a loving and special way. After all, the Father expressed His great love to Jesus at His baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)! God also did other wonderful things for people during their baptisms (Acts 19:1-7).**

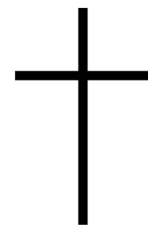
### **HOW should a person be water baptized?**

**Baptism is to be done by immersion in water because:**

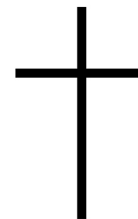
- a. **The Greek word “baptizo” means to immerse or dunk.**
- b. **Jesus was immersed (Matthew 3:13-17).**
- c. **The early church immersed (Acts 2:41).**
- d. **The New Testament teaches nothing but immersion.**

### **WHEN should a person be water baptized?**

- a. **After you have recieved Christ as Lord and Savior (Acts 18:8).**
- b. **At your first opportunity (Acts 8:35-39 and Acts 16:30-34).**



# SCRIPTURES REGARDING WATER BAPTISM



**What is the significance of water baptism?**

**Romans 6:1-6**

**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**

**Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**

**1 Corinthians 12:13**

**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.**

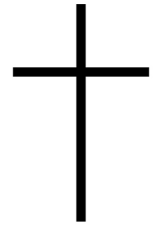
**Galatians 3:27**

**For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

**Colossians 2:11-14**

**In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcisions of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

# SCRIPTURES REGARDING WATER BAPTISM



## **Why should we be baptized?**

**Matthew 28:19**

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

**Acts 2:38**

**Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 22:16**

**And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

## **When should we be baptized?**

**Acts 2:41**

**Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**

**Acts 8:12**

**But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.**

**Acts 8:38**

**So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.**

**Acts 9:18**

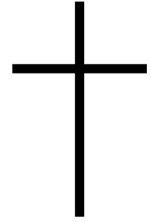
**Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.**

**Acts 16:33**

**And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.**



# SCRIPTURES REGARDING WATER BAPTISM



## **How should we be baptized?**

**Matthew 3:13-15**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

## **What should follow baptism (in our lives)?**

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

**Galatians 5:16**

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**1 Peter 3:21**

There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:11**

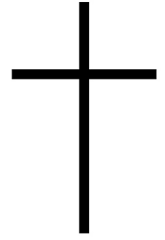
But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.



# A STUDY GUIDE FOR WATER BAPTISM

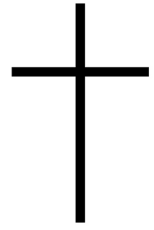


**The following questions are a guide to understanding water baptism. If you have additional questions, please call the church office at 715.341.3275 and ask to speak with one of our pastors.**

**1. Read Acts 2:38 and Acts 16:31-34. Who was baptized in water?**

**2. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told His disciples to do three things as they were representing Him in their daily lives. List the three commands and the one promise.**

# A STUDY GUIDE FOR WATER BAPTISM



4. According to Romans 6:3-4, we identify with Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ through water baptism, and we are \_\_\_\_\_ with Him in our new life.

5. According to Acts 8:35-39, when was the eunuch baptized in water?

6. In Acts 16:30-34, the Philippian Jailer and those in his household were baptized in water \_\_\_\_\_ after they received Christ.



# PREPARING FOR WATER BAPTISM

**Baptism is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)**

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

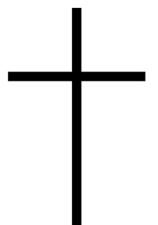
We call these verses "The Great Commission." In them, Jesus commands His followers to take the message of the good news about Jesus into the entire world. The command to baptize followers of Jesus is a very important part of this command.

**Baptism is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**

We also baptize new believers because Jesus was Himself baptized by His cousin John. When we are baptized, it is an act of following Jesus, an act of discipleship. This is what discipleship means, to follow Jesus.

**Matthew 3:13-17 (NASB)**

Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."



**Baptism was the practice of the \_\_\_\_\_**

When we obey the Lord by following Him in baptism, we are following the pattern of the early church we find in The Book of Acts. Acts is a historical book in the New Testament, which recounts the story of the first followers of Jesus. There are many examples:

**Acts 2:36-38; 2:41; 8:36-38; 10:47-48; 16:30-34**

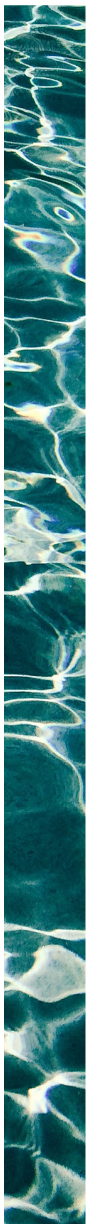
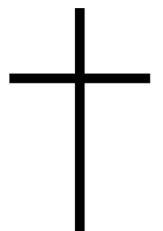
We will look at one in particular in the next section.

**Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_**

Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, yet baptism is more than symbolic. It's a spiritually significant work of living faith, whereby we bury the "old man" (Romans 6:6). We are included in Jesus' suffering and triumph when we first believe. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Jesus' death and the waters of baptism become for us a watery grave. The person we used to be exists no more! The old "us" has been buried!

**Romans 6:1-7 (NASB)**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES

## **What Now?**

To participate in our Water Baptism Service, please do the following:

1. Sign up online at [www.wearerefuge.net/baptism](http://www.wearerefuge.net/baptism).
2. Arrive to church at 9:15am so we can give you final instructions.

If you do not have access to the Internet or experience difficulties registering online, please contact our church office at 715.341.3275 or email [hello@wearerefuge.net](mailto:hello@wearerefuge.net).

## **On the day of your baptism, please bring:**

1. A change of clothes for the baptism (the clothes for baptism need to be dark in color)
2. Plastic bag for wet clothes
3. Towel
4. Sandals or flip flops

We will provide you with a dark t-shirt to wear during the baptism that is yours to keep.

Please let us know if you have any other additional questions. We are so excited for this next step in your faith journey!

