

Should I be baptized?

From time to time people discuss the purpose and the necessity of water baptism and its relationship to salvation. While the question of the “need” for baptism is debated, the real question we should be dealing with is the justification for baptism.

1. What reasons are given for being baptized?

Luke **3:1-6**

Matthew **3:13-17; 28:19-20**

Acts **2:36-41**

The first baptism indicated is a baptism of repentance. This is the baptism of John. It indicates that a person recognizes that he is a sinner and in need of forgiveness through the act of repentance or turning away from his sin to do the work of God. Jesus says that the reason He was baptized was to fulfill all righteousness. Therefore for we ought to be baptized for righteousness sake or because it is the right thing to do. Jesus commanded the Christians to go out into the world, make disciples and baptize them into His name indicating His possession of us. A person is baptized because he is repenting of his sins and seeking the forgiveness of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. When should a person be baptized?

Acts **8:35-39**; 9:17-18; 10:42-48; **19:1-5**

The scriptures indicate that a person is to be baptized when they believe. Typically as soon after he comes to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. This is a time he has clearly come to the understanding of his own sinfulness and that he has a great need for God's mercy and grace through the work of Jesus Christ. Baptism should be carried out not so much when someone repents of their sin but when have come to trust themselves in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. What does baptism represent or indicate?

Romans **6:3-6**

Mark **16:16**

Colossians 2:12-14

Baptism indicates that a person is committing himself to the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is acknowledging his great state of sinfulness and his inability to do anything about it in his own power. He is committing himself to trust in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. It symbolizes that his old life of living to himself is now dead thus he enters into the death and burial of the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore it symbolizes his new life of living in and for Jesus Christ and thus he enters into the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. What are some reasons for a person to not be baptized?

Luke **23:39-43**

Luke **7:30**

Because baptism is a commandment of Christ and the Christian desires to please Christ and live his life in obedience to the commandments of Christ as a faithful servant, the only God honoring

reason for a Christian to NOT be baptized is if he died before he could be baptized. Others are not baptized because they reject the counsel or commandments of God.

5. What are some things about baptism that I should be careful of?

John **3:23**; **4:1-2**

1 Corinthians **1:12-18**; 12:12-13

1 Peter **3:18-22**

Baptism should be carried out with much water. This indicates that baptism should take place by immersion and not by sprinkling. Water baptism is not a requirement for salvation. Note that not only did Paul indicate that He did not baptize the Corinthians but that Jesus did not baptize. Since Jesus did everything necessary for salvation and John stresses the fact that Jesus did not baptize, the it follows that baptism is not strictly required for salvation. However, a Christian ought to be baptized because he is to desire to be obedient to the commands of Christ. When Peter says that “baptism does save”, please note that he specifically indicates that he is not talking about water baptism but “the answer of a good conscience toward God” thus Peter is talking about being baptized by the Spirit of God by having faith in Jesus Christ.