

Baptism Cheat Sheet!

What is baptism?

An symbol – Baptism is a picture of salvation – a symbol of what God does when someone puts their faith in Him. He washes away their sins. It an ancient ritual that *shows* others what has already happened in us

An act of obedience – We get baptized because Jesus told us to, *AND* led by example!

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” Mark 1:9

“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’” Matt. 28:19-20

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3

An opportunity – because we do this weird thing, we have this opportunity to invite other people to hear our story and see a demonstration of what Jesus has already done for us! Faith is a personal decision, but it was never meant to be a private one.

What does baptism mean?

It is a picture of Jesus’ burial and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Col. 2:12

It illustrates a new life as a believer in Christ.

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so also we may live a new life.” Rom. 6:4

Baptism doesn’t make you a Christian; it demonstrates that you already believe.

It’s important to understand that baptism does not “save” you. You are “saved” only by your faith in Jesus.

Baptism is like a wedding ring. This ring doesn’t “make you’ married to someone, it’s simply a sign that you’re married. Your vows and choices and commitments prove that you’re married. The ring is merely a symbol. Specifically, it’s an outward symbol of the commitment I made in a persons heart when then get married.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment.

Who should be baptized

Everyone who has chosen to put their faith in Jesus

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you believe!

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

Common Excuses:

- I don't have a story
- I'm too shy
- My friends know what I'm really like
- I'm too young
- I haven't stopped...
- I'm not good enough

It's not about being perfect, it's about signifying to your friends, family and spiritual family the exact opposite – that you're not perfect, but that you want to follow Jesus.

Acts 6

*Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, **now we also may live new lives.***

*Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. **We are no longer slaves to sin.***

*Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live **under the freedom of God's grace.***

*When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.***