

A. What water baptism isn't

Water Baptism isn't what pays for our sins or gives us eternal life.

We are redeemed by the blood of Jesus and our sins were paid for on the cross!

Jesus was baptized before He went to the cross.

So, if baptism alone could save us, He would not have had to shed His blood for our sins.

It is on the merits of Christ's blood alone that our sins are remitted.

1 Peter 1:18

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors.

And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value.

It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

Roman 5:8

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

And we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ . . .

John 3:16

For this is how God loved the world:

He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

B. What Water Baptism Is

Definition:

Baptism =

(G908) baptisma = immersion, submersion
emphasizing it is a result of a sincere repentance*

comes from . . .

(G907) baptizo = to immerse, submerge, to make whelmed (fully wet)*

related to . . .

(G911) bapto = to dip, as in a dye or color*

Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.

The clearest example that shows the meaning of *baptizo* is a text from the Greek poet and physician, Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words.

Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (*bapto*) into boiling water and then 'baptized' (*baptizo*) in the vinegar solution.

Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first dipping in boiling water is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing (*baptizo*) the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

When used in the New Testament, the word baptism or baptisma more fully refers to our union and identification with Christ than just to our act of water baptism.

Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. **There must be a union with him, a real change . . . like the vegetable to the pickle!**

Example:

* a wedding ring = an outward and public “symbol” that speaks both to each other and to others of their complete commitment to each other

* Baptism = an outward and public “symbol” of the decision, before both man and God, of a committed union with Christ

1) **Water Baptism is an outward expression, a symbol of a believer's faith in Christ** and belief that He is who He says that He is . . .

Romans 10:9

*. . . that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*

Throughout the book of Acts, we see the pattern of believer's following Jesus' example in water baptism after they confessed Him as Lord and Savior.

Acts 8:12 (NLT)

But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, any men and women were baptized.

Acts 8:35-38 (TPT/NLT)

*Philip shared with him the wonderful message of Jesus.
As they were traveling down the road, the man said, “Look, here's a pool of water. Why don't I get baptized right now?”*

Philip replied, “If you believe with all your heart, I'll baptize you.”

The man answered, “I believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Son of God.”

He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Acts 18:7,8 (NLT)

Then he (Paul) left and went to the home of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers and were baptized.

2) **Water Baptism symbolizes our newness in Christ** . . . a picture of a new beginning, like a new school year . . . the last year is over and behind . . .

Galatians 3:26,27

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.

3) **Water Baptism is a picture of our being “born again” into our new life in Christ!**

(Illustration: being reborn out of the womb of the waters of baptism)

John 1:12, 13

*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.
They are reborn . . . a birth that comes from God.*

4) Water Baptism identifies us with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

Romans 6:4, 6b, 11

*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.*

*We are no longer slaves to sin!
So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin
and alive to God through Christ Jesus.*

5) Water Baptism announces our true identity in Christ

Matthew 3:16,17

*After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."*

We may ask ourselves, "why did Jesus get baptized?" He was sinless.

v. 14, John the Baptist actually tried to talk Jesus out of it

v. 15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires."

(and then we see heaven's response in v. 16-17

***As Jesus obeyed in response to His Father's instruction,
His Father identified Him publicly as His Son***

Baptism is a public announcement of our new true identity: I am my Beloved's and he is mine!

Which leads us to . . .

6) Water Baptism is a natural response to being a disciple of Jesus Christ

**A disciple is not just one who learns about the ways of Jesus,
but one who follows those ways as well.**

Matthew 28:18-20

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.*

And be sure of this:

I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

7) Water Baptism signifies the deliverance and protection we have in Christ

In one of Jesus' appearances after His resurrection, He said to His disciples:

Mark 16:15,16.

*"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
Anyone that believes and is baptized (G907 baptizo) will be saved'.*

"believes" (G4100): to entrust, especially one's spiritual well being to Christ

"will be saved" (G4982): to save that is deliver or protect

(3)

* In his first epistle, Peter correlates the flood waters of Noah in Genesis with the waters of

baptism . . .

1 Peter 3:18-22

*Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.
And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves (G4982) you,
not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God
from a clean conscience.*

The blood of Jesus redeems us from the penalty of sin (He paid the ransom price).

The water acknowledges our deliverance (greek = sozo) from the past (habits or strongholds)
sozo = deliver or protect, [from the root word which means] heal, preserve, be made whole

Baptism is a picture of being carried through difficult waters and brought to the other side
into a whole new beginning!

HALLELUJAH!!!

The Lord's Supper and water baptism are considered “sacraments” of the Christian faith.

The word sacrament is a sign and a seal, representing and linked to something real.

Like a royal seal on an official document, the sacraments seal and mark the believer
as belonging to Christ.

Although it is somewhat ceremonial, neither water baptism or the Lord's Supper (communion) should
be practiced as a mere religious ritual.

As we have learned today, it is identification with all that Christ did and all that we are now joined to.

QUESTION:

Is it ok to get baptized more than once?

There are multiple reasons why someone may want to get baptized a second or third time.

- 1) As a re-commitment or re-covenanting with the Lord:
 - a) if they feel they have fallen away from God and want to publicly renounce their past, or
 - b) having overcome a specific stronghold or addiction, they want to bury that in the past and express moving forward into the newness of all that He has for them through baptism.
- 2) To identify with Jesus earthly journey (such as getting baptized in the Jordan River, while on a trip to Israel).
- 3) Having a deeper understanding than at an earlier age or stage in their walk with the Lord. Some people feel that they did it partially out of honor for their parents, and now they want to do it as a personal expression of their own personhood and commitment to follow Christ.
- 4) Not really remembering it due to it being a long time ago and wanting to experience it in their new season with the Lord.
- 5) Out of obedience to the Lord. We don't always have to understand why God is asking us to do something, but if He says it's important to do it again, then it is important to obey and surrender to that prompting. He may reveal the reason at a later time.