

Baptism

Rather than “graduation,” baptism signifies “enrollment” in Christian Life. Do not worry about your current knowledge of the bible, nor your ability to pray, sing hymns, make offerings or serve in the church. Spiritual growth comes from learning with a humble heart.

I. Why is it necessary to have baptism?

1. **Jesus’ command**: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:18-20). Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)
 2. **Jesus’ example of obedience**: Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)
 3. **Public testimony**: Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father. (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8-9)
 4. **Washing of sin**: Now, why delay? Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away, calling upon his name.' (Acts 22:16)
 5. **Proclamation of faith**: "If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he said in reply, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' " (Acts 8:36-38)
 6. **Proclamation of God’s complete acceptance of us**: This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience. (I Peter 3:21)
- **When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5)**

II. Meaning of baptism (Romans 6:3-11)

1. **Joining Jesus:**

- A. Baptized into his death. (Romans 6:3)
- B. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. (Romans 6:6)
- C. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. (Romans 6:8)
- D. You too must think of yourselves as (being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:10-11)
- E. We too might live in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

2. **“Wearing” Jesus:** Jesus’ parables of the wedding garment (Matthew 22:1-14)

3. **Belonging to Jesus:** He has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment. (II Corinthians 1:20-22)

4. **Signifying the blood of Jesus:** The blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin. (I John 1:7)

5. **Uniting with Jesus:** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:1-7)

- **Baptism is completed by God’s Holy Trinity, Holy Father, Holy Son and the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:4-14), allowing us to become members in one Body of Christ.**