



CLASS TWO: WATER BAPTISM

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When the early church preached the Gospel, and people accepted Jesus, they went on to baptise the people who had come to believe. They were simply obeying the instruction that was given to them by the Lord.

[Matthew 28:19] "Therefore, go and make disciples in all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

[Mark 16:16] "The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but the one who does not believe shall be condemned."

1. What is Water Baptism?

Water Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality. It symbolizes your union with Jesus; your death, burial and resurrection with Jesus to walk in the newness of life [Romans 6:3-4].

When someone becomes born again, what actually happens is that He identifies with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. This is a reality that has happened on the inside within the man's spirit.

2. Purpose of Water Baptism

It is a public confession of personal faith in Jesus. It is a public confession of a public surrender to Jesus. It is a public confession of consecration to Jesus.

3. Why Should a Christian be baptized?

- Because Jesus was baptized [**Matthew 3:13-17**], Jesus was sinless but identified with those He came to save [**Hebrews 2:14-15**]. If we are followers of Jesus, then we must do what He did [**1 John 2:16**].
- Because Jesus commanded it [**Matthew 28:19-20** | **Mark 16:16**].
- Because Peter taught this at Pentecost [**Acts 2:37-39**], this was the birth of the church we all belong to today.
- Because it was practised at the very beginning of the Christian Church Life [**Acts 2:41**]
- Early church fathers who preached water baptism
 - Philip at Samaria [**Acts 8:12-16**]
 - Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch [**Acts 8:35-39**]
 - By Paul and Silas - For the Philippian jailer and his family [**Acts 16:33**].

4. Who should be baptized?

All true disciples of Jesus must be baptized as soon as possible after conversion as a foundation for discipleship [**Mark 16:16** | **Matthew 28:19**].

Faith is what leads someone to become born again, faith in Jesus Christ. This is why there are no grounds for infant baptism because it takes a personal decision to receive what Christ did on the cross.



5. How should a believer be baptized?

The Greek words "bapto" and "baptizo" are words used for baptism. Bapto = to dip [**Luke 16-24**]. Baptizo = to cause to be dipped and Baptisma = the process of immersion, submersion and emergence.

There are no grounds for sprinkling and other forms of baptism.

Jesus "went up ... out of the water" [**Matthew 3:16**]

"In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit", [witnessed by the Godhead... **Matthew 28:19**]

"And in the Name above every name: the Name of Jesus..." [**Acts 2:38**]

6. When should a Christian be baptized?

As soon as possible after confession of genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Ethiopian Eunuch [**Acts 8:35-39**]
- The Philippian jailer and his household [**Acts 16:30-33**]
- Cornelius and his household [**Acts 10:44-48**]