

*“Then Jesus Came from Galilee to the **Jordan to be baptized by John**. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’*

*Jesus replied, ‘**Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.**’ Then John consented.*

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said. “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:13-17

*“Then (following Jesus’ resurrection) the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. and Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

Matthew 28:16-20

*“Then Peter said, ‘**Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water?** They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’ **So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.**”*

Acts 10:47-48



I remember my first real jersey. It was a red Umbro jersey with weird white boxes decorating the front. It didn't really fit right and it wasn't super-fly, but it looked just like 21 other jerseys – and it was mine. I happily wore that jersey with pride – not because it was particularly cool – but because it identified me with something greater. That jersey distinguished me from the other team, the bystanders, and the referees, and it identified me with my team, and it identified my team with me. I wasn't just watching; I was all in – and the jersey made that visible to everyone.

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River he was identifying himself with the sinners he came to save. Jesus stood with the crowds of people who were anticipating the Messiah, and identified completely with them. By being baptized, he was essentially saying – “I'm all in.”

Today baptism hasn't changed. When someone is baptized, they are publicly identifying with Jesus and with Jesus' people. They are publically saying, “I'm not just watching; I'm all in with Jesus.”

WHAT DOES “BAPTIZE” MEAN?

Baptize: To be “plunged, dipped, or immersed.” It means to go “all in.”

Example: A soldier who is dropped into his first firefight is “baptized by fire.”

He is no longer a rookie to warfare; he has been abruptly and completely immersed into the war and his life will never be the same.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF BAPTISM?

There are lots of different kinds of baptisms in the Old Testament some of them were ritual baptisms that symbolized their need for to have their sins washed away, and some of them were baptisms of anticipation, and preparation. Think of these baptisms like baths. Sometimes you take a bath to get clean, and sometimes you take a bath to get ready for something.

But when Jesus died on the cross, he washed our sin away and he made us ready for his presence. Following his resurrection from the dead, Christians

quit practicing the old baptisms, and instead received two different kinds of baptism: Spirit Baptism and Believers' Water Baptism.

- Spirit Baptism is what happens when you become a Christian (1Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit fills, seals, and begins to change you from the inside out. You have been “baptized” by the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of debate around exactly what “Spirit Baptism” is and looks like, but that is a study for another time.
- Believers' Water Baptism is what happens when a person expresses their faith in Jesus as their personal Savior, God, and King, and someone dunks them under water as a outward demonstration of their expressed inward transformation. Believers' Water Baptism is what we're going to talk about. From now on, when we talk about “Baptism” we are talking about Believers' Water Baptism.

The Holy Spirit makes you part of the team – He makes you “all in.” Water Baptism is like putting on the Jersey – it shows that you are “all in.” The water doesn't make you part of the team any more than my red Umbro jersey made me part of my soccer team – it just distinguished me from everyone else, and identified me with the team I was already on.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM DO?

Baptism Identifies Christians with Jesus and Jesus' people: (Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:11-12): What does it mean to identify with someone or something? It means that, though you may not be the same person, you willingly share their reputation, risks, and rewards. If you join a team – or any other group – you willingly identify yourself as part of that group. On a team you share the work at practice, the glory of victory, and the humiliation of defeat. When you take the field you physically demonstrate your team identity by wear matching jerseys. You willingly identify with every other person that has worn, is wearing or will wear that same jersey – for better or worse. It would be ridiculous for you to join a team and yet refuse to wear the jersey. Even when a player is hurt and can't play he or she still ride the bench in his or her jersey! If you said you were part of a team and refused to wear the jersey on game day, no one would believe you! It just wouldn't make any sense!

In a similar way, Christians identify with Jesus and with Jesus's people through baptism – it's like our jersey. When we stand up in front of the

church, get dunked, and raised back up, we are physically identifying with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection – “Buried in the likeness of His death; raised in the likeness of His resurrection!” Our actions are shouting, “I am sharing in Jesus suffering and in Jesus' glory.” Our actions are also identifying us with everyone else who has, is, or will ever call themselves “Christian.”

Baptism Demonstrates Submission: The method of baptism – getting dunked – signifies that we are willingly submitting ourselves to Jesus and His plan for our lives. We are demonstrating that we have died to our own pride, plans, and priorities and have begun a new life with Jesus in charge. When we are baptized, we are helplessly submerged, and totally dependent upon someone else to bring us back up out of the water. When we become Christians, we acknowledge that we are helplessly in need of Jesus to take control.

Baptism Symbolizes A Spiritual Bath: Why do you “baptize” yourself in the bathtub? To get clean of course! Christian baptism isn't all that different. It is an outward symbol of something that Jesus has already done in your life (Isaiah 1:18; Acts 22:16). All through the Old Testament the people of God practiced all kinds of baptisms. These were to physically demonstrate their spiritual need for cleansing. In a symbolic way, they would physically baptize themselves – or be baptized – because they knew they were polluted by sin – i.e. they were dirty. Christian baptism physically demonstrates the spiritual “bath” Jesus has given us. Jesus washes away our sin like water washes away dirt.

WHAT DOESN'T BAPTISM DO?

Getting wet Doesn't Save You: In the Bible, Baptism usually happens right after someone gets saved. It was often the immediate response when someone placed their faith in Jesus and trusted Him as God and Savior.

However, Baptism didn't, doesn't, and won't save anyone. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, not by works that you have done so that no one can boast...” (Ephesians 2:8-9). There is no “deed” that we can do that can make us more or less Christian – including baptism or a special prayer. We are saved when the Holy Spirit allows us to see the horrific nature of our sinful self, causes us to run helplessly to Jesus, beg Him to forgive all our sin – past, present, and future – and trust Him to do what He has promised. It is by his GRACE (a undeserved and unearned gift) ALONE through FAITH ALONE that we are saved.

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

- **OBEY:** Jesus commanded it (Matthew 28:19)
- **IDENTIFY:** Jesus identified Himself with us literally and symbolically (Mark 1:9; Philippians 2:5-8)
- **FOLLOW:** It is the example of all Christians, beginning in Acts and continuing on until today (Acts 2:38, 8:39, 9:18, 10:47-48, 16:33...)

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every Christian: Every person who has trusted Jesus as God and Savior should be baptized. The Bible seems pretty clear that we should first make disciples and then baptize those disciples (Matthew 28:19).

It Doesn't Matter How Old You Are: The Bible doesn't give any age requirement for baptism, but it is clear that the person being baptized should be able to understand and demonstrate their personal faith in Jesus (Acts:10:47-48; Romans 10:9-10).

SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

If you are a Christian, than you should be baptized: to identify with Jesus, to identify with Jesus' people, to demonstrate your willingness to submit to Jesus' plan for you, to physically demonstrate that your sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus. It really is that simple.

- Have You Been Baptized As A Christian? This is a "Yes" or "No" question.
- What Do You Need To Do To Get Your Jersey?
 1. Tell your Core Group Leader:
 2. Attend the Next Baptism Class:
 3. Begin writing out your Testimony (that's the story of how you put your faith in Jesus):

CORE QUESTIONS:

- What teams have you ever been apart of?
- What does it mean to be on a team?
- Why do teams wear jerseys/uniforms?
- When you're on a team, whom do you listen to and sacrifice for?
- When you're on a team, how do you know whom to pass to, block for, etc.?
- What does any of this have to do with Baptism?

SCHEDULE 2.15.2017

G2 SCHEDULE

- 6:15 Set up and ready to go
- **6:30 Welcome/Announcements:** Caleb
 - Welcome
 - Announcements
 - Join us on Sunday Mornings!
 - Question of the week: How can we glorify God?
- **6:35 Music:** Piper & Caleb
- **6:50 Why did Jesus come?** Taylor
- **7:15 Core Group:** Refer to "CORE Questions" at the end of the message notes
- **7:30 Games:** Melissa
 - Gym
- **8-8:30 Hangout**

LODG SCHEDULE

- 6:15 Set up and ready to go
- **6:30 Welcome/Announcements:** Josh
 - Video
 - Welcome
 - Announcements
 - Question of the Week: How can we glorify God?
 - Ski Day Monday. Arrive at the LODG at 6:15 A.M. Leave at 6:30 A.M. Arrive back around 10 P.M. Bring extra socks, a sack lunch, \$ for food on the way home
- **6:35 Krazee Gamez:** Mindy/Shana
- **7:00 Core Group:** What does it mean to be part of a team? Why do teams wear jerseys/uniforms?
- **7:10 Music:** The LODG Collaborative
- **7:25 Why did Jesus Come?** Caleb
- **7:50 Core Group:** Refer to "CORE Questions" at the end of the message notes
- **8-8:30 Hangout**