

It is by faith that we receive Jesus Christ and His gift of eternal salvation and not by baptism. Our baptism symbolizes our faith and new identity in Christ, our death and resurrection as in Jesus. During the New Testament times baptism would immediately follow conversion and the two events could be looked on as one event. Jesus' baptism by John was an example for all new believers to follow. Thus, we are called to be baptized during our conversion to publicly announce our new faith and be revealed to the church. We are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- Matt 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- John 1:31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."
- Rom 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Discussion Item 1: *What does baptism mean to you?*

Discussion Item 2: *Have you been baptized?*

Life Application: *Evaluate what your obedience to God meant if and when you were baptized.*

Helpful Definition:

new – a heart or character changed by the power of God, so as to be governed by the new and holy motives. (*Webster*)

Notes:

Proverb 4:3-4 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

Psalms 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.