

**“The Meaning of Baptism”**

**1. Baptism is a sign and commitment to new life**

**“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' ”**

**John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. Matthew 3:1-6**

- Baptism is a picture of starting a new life, turning over a new leaf.
- Baptism is a sign that we want to get a re-start in life.

**2. Baptism is an act of obedience/ righteousness**

**“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 alighting 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**

Righteousness is not just about what we don't do. It is also about what we do. Anytime we walk in obedience to God - we will feel the pleasure of God's love for us.

Christian Baptism is a picture of our unity with Jesus' death and resurrection

**“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.” Romans 6:3-7**

In baptism, we are saying that when Jesus died, we died; when he was buried, we were buried; when he was raised again, we were raised again into new life. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

### **3. Baptism is a picture of washing**

**“And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” 1 Peter 3:21-22**

Baptism is an outward symbol of the inner spiritual washing of our souls; our mind, our will, and our emotions.

**“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”  
Hebrews 10:22**

### **4. Baptism is an immersion into Christ**

- ❖ Baptism is a symbol that our whole life, our whole being is “in Christ.”
- ❖ Being “in Christ” means that whatever has happened to Jesus has happened to us.
- ❖ Being “in Christ” means that when God the Father sees us, he sees his Son first because we are “in Him”.

**So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. - Galatians 3:27**

### **5. Through baptism we join the universal body of Christ.**

**For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13**

Baptism is a sign that you have joined the community of faith.

### **6. Baptism is a public witness of your faith.**

**“Whoever publicly acknowledges me I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32**

Just as the marriage ceremony is a public witness to the love and unity between two people, baptism is a public witness to the love and unity between God and us.