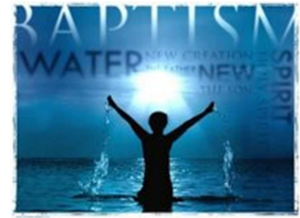


# Baptism Information



Baptism is one of those really memorable moments of your life, it holds tremendous spiritual significance, and can be a great day of celebration with family and friends.

Some questions you may have:

## **Why Should I Get Baptised?**

It is a command of Jesus

*"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."* Matt 28:19(NIV)

It is a pledge of good conscience towards God

*"And baptism, which is a figure, does now also save you, not by the removing of outward body filth, but by the answer of a good and clear conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:21 (Amplified version)*

Jesus himself was baptised

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 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. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* Matthew 3:13,16-17

## **Who Should get Baptised?**

Only those who sincerely believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15-16*

Only those that have repented of their sin and turned in faith to Jesus Christ receiving him as Saviour and Lord

*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:37-38*

Only those who are sincerely willing to become his disciples.

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23*

## **What is Baptism (Immersion)?**

### **Meaning:**

*The spiritual significance is death to ones- self, a burial to our old way of life and a rebirth into a new life. It is the same three steps Jesus took on the cross with his death burial and resurrection.*

*The word baptism is from the Greek word 'baptiso' which literally means 'to immerse' or 'plunge.' In this context baptiso is a market place expression. The Greeks used this word describing the act of taking a garment and placing it into a container of dye. Imagine a garment going into a bucket of dye, when it is taken out though it is the same cloth it has taken up the character & appearance of the dye..*

### **Repentance / Allegiance:**

Baptism is the new form of initiation and allegiance, a symbolic act. Peter in his address to the crowd on the day of Pentecost expressed the importance to “repent and be baptised”. The emphasis is on repentance from sin.



Baptism encompasses the essential idea of the change in allegiance.  
*Our identity is now in Christ, our ALLEGIANCE is to the Lord.*

### **Adoption / Identification:**

“In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19-20) we are adopted into the body of believers. It entails a change of identification. Our new status is as sons and daughters through our adoption into the family of God.

*A genuine change has taken place, To be part of God’s family brings with it responsibilities.*

When we became Christians 2 things happened:

- 1) Our old way of life finished.
- 2) A completely new way of life began.

Baptism then identifies the death of your old identity and the beginning of a new identity as a member with Christ.

The death the burial and the resurrection is an outward demonstration of what has already taken place inwardly

### **The 3 Steps of Baptism**

#### **1) Into the Water – represents Death**

As we go down into the water, we are saying in effect, that just as Jesus died for our sin on the cross, so we have died to sin in our lives. There has been a complete break with the past - a death - “count yourselves dead to sin” (Romans 6:11)

#### **2) Under the Water – represents Burial**

A dead person must be buried. Just as Jesus was buried in the tomb, so when we are lowered beneath the water our lives as sinners are regarded as put out of sight - “we were therefore buried with him through baptism into death” (Romans 6:4). Our baptism becomes like a funeral and the water the grave. Death followed by burial now prevents our returning to the old way of life.

#### **3) Out of the Water – represents Resurrection**

“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 his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.” (Romans 6:4-5) Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God. We are lifted from the water to live a new and distinctive life, the life of Christ Himself. Paul explains it like this “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live my faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

If you would like more information or are interested in getting Baptised please talk to

Tony Versey or Krys Keogh

[tony@northgate.org.nz](mailto:tony@northgate.org.nz) or [krys@northgate.org.nz](mailto:krys@northgate.org.nz)