

*“Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.” - Acts 8:13*

*“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” - Acts 8:12*

B. At Atherton Baptist Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

C. At Atherton Baptist Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.

## **V. When Should You Be Baptized?**

A. As soon as you believe! *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” - Acts 2:41*

*“Then Philip opened his mouth and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” **Acts 8:35-38***

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you will never feel “good enough.”

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### **A Word About Re-baptism**

A person may be re-baptized for either one of two reasons:

1. The person was baptized earlier in life without having made a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ, or
2. The person was baptized by a method other than by immersion.

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*If we can answer any questions or direct you to one of our pastors or, New Member Class workers, please call our church office at: (323) 757-3113 ext. 107*

### **ATHERTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

2627 West 116th Street  
Hawthorne, California 90250

**Office:** 323-757-3113 ☎ **Fax:** 323-757-8772

**Email:** [athertonbaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:athertonbaptist@sbcglobal.net)

**Website:** [www.athertonbc.org](http://www.athertonbc.org)

Pastor Larry D. Weaver, Sr.—Pastor/Teacher

*Baptism*

Q & A

Our Biblical convictions  
concerning Baptism

# Baptism Q and A

## I. Why Should You Be Baptized?

A. Because Christ commands it. “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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen”  
- Matthew 28: 19-20

B. To follow the example set by Jesus Christ. “It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” - Mark 1:9

C. It demonstrates that you really are a believer. “Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household, And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”  
- Acts 18:8

## II. What Is The Meaning of Baptism?

A. It illustrates Christ’s death and resurrection. “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”  
-1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him

through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” ~ Colossians 2:11-12

“Or do you not know that as many of us as 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.” - Romans 6:3-4

B. It illustrates your new life as a Christian. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

“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.” - Romans 6:4

Baptism does not make you a believer—it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you; only your faith in Christ does that: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” - Ephesians 2:8-9

Baptism is like a wedding ring—it is the outward symbol of the commitment you have made in your heart.

## III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way. “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.” - Matthew 3:16

B. Every baptism in the Bible was that way. “So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that they eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.” - Acts 8:38-39

C. The word baptize means, “to dip under water”. The Greek word *baptizo* means, “to immerse or dip under water.”

D. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

Great teachers of church history agree:

“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.— Martin Luther

“The Word “baptize” signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the early church.” - John Calvin

“Buried with Him’ alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.” - John Wesley

## IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

A. Every person who believes in Christ. “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” - Acts 2:41