

1. Is baptism necessary for salvation?

- NO! although some passages appear to require baptism for salvation, this teaching is not biblical
- all that is required for salvation is true faith
- Paul makes it abundantly clear that inner baptism (new birth) is salvation – water baptism is its sign
- the thief on the cross was saved but not baptized

(Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 16:30-31; Gal 6:15; 1 Cor 1:14-17; Lk 23:42-43)

2. Why is water baptism important?

- it is commanded by Jesus and the apostles
- it is a "re-enactment" of the baptism by the Spirit
- it illustrates dramatically my death, burial and resurrection with Jesus
- it is a public profession of faith and discipleship
- it can be my first opportunity to be a witness to the world (seen and unseen) that my sins have been forgiven and that I have been changed

3. Who should be baptized?

- because water baptism is to be a sign and demonstration of salvation, ONLY people who have been born again (saved through faith) should be baptized

4. What about infant baptism?

- since infants cannot believe or repent they should not be baptized
- young children may be "dedicated" to the Lord but they will still have to come to saving faith later

5. Who should baptize?

- the Bible does not specifically speak to this
- Jesus did not baptize but His disciples did
- some apostles are spoken of as baptizing believers
- if the great commission is given to all Christians then all Christians have the authority to baptize

(Jn 4:2; Acts 6:8; Acts 16:33; 1 Cor 1:12-17; Mt 28:19-20)

6. If my baptism was unbiblical, must I be baptized again?

- an acceptable baptism must come after belief
- if a believer's baptism was not by immersion, re-baptism may be a matter of personal conscience
- Example of re-baptism: Ephesian disciples

(Acts 19:1-5)

7. How should I be baptized?

- simply because of the meaning of the Greek word "baptizo", immersion is the most logical mode
- baptism by sprinkling or pouring would be an oxymoron, something self-contradictory

8. When should I be baptized?

- the biblical pattern is immediately after believing
- as soon as possible after salvation
- as soon as possible after awareness that baptism has been commanded

(Acts 8:12, 35-38; 9:17-19; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 30-33; 18:8)

7. If I am a born again child of God who loves God and desires to please Him, how could I possibly choose not to be baptized?

baptized = "baptizo"

I have been so

* immersed into,

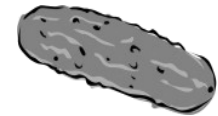
* united with,

* identified with,

Christ that a

permanent change

has taken place



A "cucumber"
has become a "pickle"!



Water baptism is the external sign of the internal reality – I have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection.

~ I have been made new ~