

What if I was baptised as a baby?

If you look at the scriptural conditions for being baptised - referenced above, a baby cannot meet any of them. Infant baptism is a wrong teaching that has led many to believe that as they were 'done as a baby' they will be going to heaven! This is a huge error - Jesus wants a personal relationship with us and no one can repent on our behalf. If you have been baptised as a baby regard it as a dedication to God. Be baptised when you understand what you are doing, with your will involved - believers baptism.

Why are we baptised by immersion?

The Greek word for baptise - baptizein means to immerse.

Matthew records how Jesus was baptised.

*And having been baptised, Jesus **went up** immediately from the water...Matt 3:16*

He went up from the water so He must have gone down into the water - full immersion.

Summary

Rom 6:5 *If we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin's claims.*

Baptism In Water

Baptism is a physical demonstration to heaven and earth that you have turned from your sin and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. It is an important act of obedience, a commitment to God which Jesus Himself told us to do. Jesus said:

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, **baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. **Matt 28:19***

Baptism has strong symbolic meaning in the bible.

It is a total identification with the death of Jesus as you go down under the water.

*All of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were **baptised into His death Rom 6:3***

It is also a total identification with the resurrection of Jesus as you come up out of the water.

*Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so **we too may walk in a new way of life. Rom 6:4***

Putting on '**Christ like a garment**' is another symbolic meaning

*For as many of you as have been baptised **into Christ** have put on **Christ like a garment. Gal 3:27***

Note from this verse that you are not baptised into the church but **into Christ**.

Conditions for Baptism

1. Teaching - *Go and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptising them to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit .Mat 28:19*

You must have an understanding of who Jesus is, why he died and how we are to live our lives.

2. Repentance - *Peter said, “**Repent** and be baptised, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” Acts 2:38*

Repentance is not just saying sorry to God for the things you have done wrong but consciously deciding *not* to do wrong. It is about turning away from lying, cheating, stealing, sex out of marriage, drunkenness, hatreds, immorality etc

When we turn to Christ He helps us to clean up our lives.

3. Believe - *Whoever **believes** and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16*

You must believe that Jesus died to save you from your sins.

4. Pledge of a good conscience - *Baptism saves you (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the **pledge of a good conscience toward God**) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Pet 3:21*

We do not want to do anything that would offend our heavenly Father.

Motives

You should be baptised:

-Not because your friends are being baptised

-Not because everyone else expects you to

-Not because it's a fun thing to do

-Because it's a command - Jesus tells you to and you want to demonstrate your commitment to Him

Some practicalities

When you are being baptised don't forget to have a towel handy for when you come out. Avoid clothing with worldly text or images on it. You may need to be prepared to briefly explain why you want to be baptised.

When you are standing in the water those baptising you may pray for you either before or after you are baptised. You will be asked a few questions such as: do you renounce the Devil and all his works and do you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

You will then be baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus commanded. You will be lowered backwards into the water and when you are fully immersed, brought back up. You may like to hold your nose to stop water going up it. If you would prefer to be baptised - by being lowered straight down - let those baptising you know.