



Dear Church Family!

Have you ever wondered WHY we baptize believers? Where did this idea come from, and why should you do it?

Did you know that Jesus was Baptized? It's recorded in three of the Gospels: Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21-22. His Baptism marked an important first step in His 3-year journey of ministry on this Earth. It's an important step for you too.

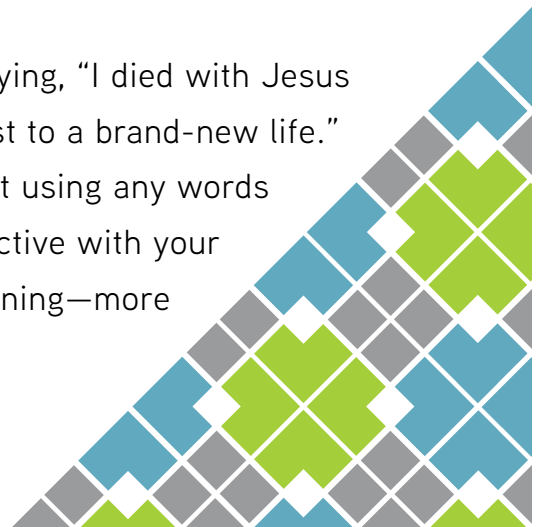
How does Baptism relate to Jesus?

- It means we have turned from the old life of sin to a new life in Jesus Christ
- It means we are publicly identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ
- It means we are openly joining the ranks of those who believe in Christ

When you are baptized, you are in fact visually preaching the gospel. As you stand in the water waiting to be baptized, first, you symbolize Jesus dying on the cross. As you are lowered into the water, second, you symbolize Jesus buried in the tomb. As you are raised from the water, third, you symbolize Jesus rising from the dead.

And since you personally are being baptized, you are also saying, "I died with Jesus Christ, I was buried with Him and now I am raised with Christ to a brand-new life."

In short, in your baptism, you are confessing the faith without using any words at all. And your confession in your baptism will be more effective with your friends than any sermon the pastor preaches on Sunday morning—more effective because it comes directly from you.





The Greek word translated “baptize” is the verb baptizo. According to most contemporary lexicons, the primary meaning is “to dip, plunge, immerse.” The secondary meaning is to “bring under the influence.” Dr. Merrill Tenney notes that “after making allowances for certain occasional exceptions, such as passages where washing is implied, the etymological meaning indicates that baptism was originally by immersion.” (Basic Christian Doctrine, p. 257)

Baptism in the New Testament:

- Baptism requires water. (Matthew 3:11)
- Baptism required plenty of water. (John 3:30)
- Baptism requires going down into the water. (Acts 8:30)
- Baptism requires coming up out of the water. (Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:39)

Now that you know more about it, maybe you feel ready to jump in the waters yourself.

If you would like to be baptized, please keep an eye on the “Events” page on our church website, CarolinasCornerstone.org,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Yates", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Barry Yates

