

Why Water Baptism?

Mark 16:15-16, Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

When you “believe” the good news & confess that Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins, and choose to receive Him as your Lord and Savior, you become “saved”. Romans 10:9-10 reads, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Being “saved” means:

* You’re born again (John 3:3-7). You’re spiritually born into God’s family. You are a child of God. You receive eternal life. You now live forever with Jesus.

Jesus taught that everyone who puts their trust in Jesus should also be baptized in water.

* An inner miracle takes place.

Notice in verse 16 again, it says, “he who does not believe will be condemned (to hell). But notice that it does NOT say, “he who is not baptized will be condemned.” So, baptism DOES NOT save you. You first must “believe” to be saved, and then get baptized to proclaim what you believe. This is why we do not baptize babies. By commandment of Jesus, we will baptize anyone who hears the gospel, believes it and makes Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior.

Listen to Colossians 2:12 [You were] buried with Him (Jesus) in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. The bible describes being “saved” as a “spiritual” baptism. Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward baptism (salvation).

When a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they are “spiritually” baptized into His death and resurrection. In other words, by receiving Jesus. “His death” becomes “their own death”, and “His resurrection from the dead” becomes “their own resurrection.” So even though everyone deserves to die for their own sins, by being spiritually baptized into Jesus (or “being saved”), they have actually already died for their sins – through Jesus – and have been raised from the dead as a new person in Christ.

When you’re baptized in water, you are essentially presenting a “physical” act of what happened to you “spiritually.” The “old you” died (with Jesus on the cross). The “old you” is buried with Jesus in the grave (the water represents the ground or grave). The “new you” is raised up with Jesus from the dead (again, the water represents the grave).

Why water?

Water is the primary substance for cleaning and washing. Doctors and nutritionists even tell us that drinking water is the primary way to cleanse the inside of our bodies. Salvation is being washed from all your sins spiritually. When you’re baptized with water, and you feel the water washing over you, this allows you to feel on the “outside” what happened to you on the “inside”. Water baptism is a VERY exciting event. When you feel the water washing over you, it’s perfectly appropriate for you to come out of the water with a smile on your face.

It’s no coincidence that when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, when He came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended on Him and He was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1). Since you are being baptized in water today, let’s also pray that God will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, like Jesus, the apostles and millions of others.

Lastly, in Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said, “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”.

These verses are also part of “The Great Commission” from Matthew 28. Jesus commanded that we baptize people “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” “*Because you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, we baptize you in the name of the Father, of the Son Jesus and of the Holy Spirit, Amen”.*

Finally, Jesus addresses something that we’re all called to pursue. Matthew 28:19 tells us to, “Go therefore and make disciples of ALL the nations (everyone).” Jesus not only wants everyone to be saved, he wants everyone to be discipled. Jesus gave us two parts to making disciples:

1. Verse 19, “baptizing them…”
2. Verse 20, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

According to Jesus, “water baptism” is the first step of discipleship. The second step of discipleship is to be “taught and trained.” That is where OSL comes in.

Operation Solid Lives (OSL) is a life changing five level discipleship system based on the word of God. This program has impacted thousands of lives and helped people live a vibrant Solid Life.



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