

1. Jesus taught that all of his followers should be baptized, so baptism is an expression of faith in Christ and a step of obedience.

This is a simple point, but an important one. We are saved by grace through faith, and baptism is an expression of that faith (not a way to be saved). But, since Jesus commanded it, baptism is the next step of obedience once a person has surrendered his or her life to God.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... (Matthew 28:19–20)

2. Baptism is a vital part of the life of every Christian.

Baptism is a physical experience that corresponds with your spiritual encounter with Christ. It is an outward symbol of an inner experience of grace.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38)

...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)

3. Baptism symbolizes your new life in God. You have gone from death to life!

In the beginning, water was a symbol of chaos (Genesis 1:2). Out of this chaos, God brings order. He creates life. The same is true for us. God takes the chaos of our lives without Him and transforms them in new lives with Him. Baptism pictures this transformation. Being lowered into the water (chaos) symbolizes dying to your old life without God, and being raised out of the water symbolizes coming to new life in Christ.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Romans 6:3–4).

4. Baptism symbolizes your good standing with God.

As a believer, you can have full assurance that you are saved by grace through faith, and baptism is a symbol of that greater truth. As you experience baptism, let that truth sink deep into your heart. You have been reconciled with God. You are now His cherished child!

...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 3:21)

The Spirit [of God] testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:16)

5. Baptism symbolizes the washing away of your sins.

This is why we completely immerse you in the water, to symbolize the fact that Jesus' death and resurrection are sufficient to completely wash you free from punishment for sin.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7)

...And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away. (Acts 22:16)

6. Baptism is a public declaration of who is the leader of your life.

You will be declaring to all your friends and family, with certainty, that Jesus is the new leader of your life. Because He is your leader, your Savior, and your Lord, you are committing yourself to doing everything Jesus has commanded you from this day forward. You won't be perfect, but you are seeking to follow Him in everything.

...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

If you love me, you will obey what I command. (John 14:15)

7. Baptism becomes a tangible reminder of the significance of your faith as you seek to live it out.

You will be standing before others giving witness that your life is now marked by Christ. You stand with Him and for Him. Your life belongs to Him, and you desire to represent that new reality. As you seek to follow Christ, you will be able to look back on this day and remember the commitment you made, the people who heard it, and all that baptism represents. This can become a great help when you doubt your salvation or struggle to obey Christ.

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22)

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

8. Being baptized connects you to the larger family of God.

For some 2,000 years, believers all around the world have decided to pursue baptism as a symbol of their new life with God. What you do today is rooted in this early church experience and connects you to that rich history.

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)