Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church

Baptism

Do I have to be Baptized to Be a Christian?

The answer is no. You don't have to be baptized to go to heaven because baptism does not save you. *Ephesians 2:8* says, *"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith."* Baptism is an act of obedience, and a public declaration of faith for all that Jesus has done for you.

When to be Baptized?

Acts 2:41 says, *"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."* There is no reason to put it off. If you wait until you feel worthy or good enough, or simply waiting for the perfect time, you will never follow through on what Jesus has commanded us to do.

Why Immersion?

The word "baptize" in the Greek is "baptizo" which means "to dip under." In the New Testament, every baptism was by immersion, including Jesus'. This is significant because baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When you go under the water, you are identifying with the death of Jesus and when you come up out of the water, you are identifying with His resurrection. *Romans 6:4-5* says, *"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."*

What about infant Baptism?

In the New Testament, the only people who were baptized were those who understood for themselves that their sin separated them from God. They understood for themselves the price that was paid so that they might be forgiven, and they each made their own decision to be baptized. If you were baptized as a baby, that baptism wasn't wrong or evil; it was just your parents' way of dedicating you to the Lord. When you get baptized the way the New Testament says baptism is to be done, you are seeing the fulfillment of their prayers back in the day.