

# BAPTISM → the next step

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Scripture indicates there are three major baptisms for the Christian:

1. Baptism by one Spirit into one body [position]
2. Baptism in water [public confession]
3. Baptism in the Holy Spirit [power]

## → Baptism Into One Body

This occurs at conversion when we are born again. We become part of the community of faith - the church.

‘The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one spirit to drink.’ **1 Corinthians 12:12-14.**

Ephesians 4:4-5.

## → Baptism In Water

Water baptism is a believer’s baptism. Baptism expresses repentance and faith in Jesus.

It is a physical act expressing a spiritual truth. The original meaning behind the word ‘baptise’ is ‘to dip’ or ‘immerse’. The word was used to describe the immersion of a cloth in a dye.

Open your Bible to Romans chapter 6 and read verses 3-6. In water baptism the three stages of Christ’s work of salvation is acted out.

1. Jesus died.
2. Jesus was buried.
3. Jesus rose from the grave.

When we obey Christ’s command and are water baptised, we identify with what Jesus has done for us. At the same time we make a declaration to the world of what happened when we were born again. We declare that:

1. My old life has died.
2. It is buried and no longer has power over me.
3. I have risen and received a new life from Christ.

**‘I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.’ [Galatians 2:20]**

## → Why Should a Person Be Water Baptised?

1. It is a command of Jesus.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” [Matthew 28:18-20]

2. It is the pledge of a good conscience towards God.

**“And this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. [1 Peter 3:21]**

3. Because Jesus Himself was baptised. **[Matthew 3:13-17]**

4. It was a foundational doctrine of the early church. **[Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 16:14-15 Acts 18:8; Acts 19:5; Acts 22:16]**

**“Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” [Acts 2:41]**

5. It is an outward confession of an inward experience. Baptism expresses our identification with Jesus. **[Romans 6:1-11]**