

Baptism For Kids:
Answering the Question -
Why do people get baptized?

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There was a man at our church who got baptized on Sunday. I was wondering, why do people get baptized?

That is a very good question. Baptism symbolizes what happens to a person when they are saved. Do you know what a symbol is?

A symbol is something that stands for something else, especially something real that cannot be pictured or shown. For example. Do you recognize this symbol?



This is a heart. Is this what a heart really looks like? No. But we use the heart to symbolize love.

Now, when you see this you know what it means.



You know this means "I love you," because the heart is a symbol for love

The heart is not love itself. Love is not a picture, or something you can actually see. It is an emotion that we feel. So we use a symbol to express what we cannot see.

Well baptism is a symbol too. It symbolizes what happens to a person when they accept Jesus as their Savior.

See, we cannot get into heaven without Jesus because we are sinners and there cannot be any sin in heaven. The bible says:

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

Because of that sin we are separated from God, but God does not want it that way. Therefore, He offers us a gift, a way to get into heaven.

“For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

His gift to us is Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Then he was buried and on the third day he rose again to give us eternal life. Here is what the bible says that Jesus did for us.

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, 15:4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

If you admit you are a sinner and believe in Jesus and accept Him as your Savior you will be saved.

“because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
(Romans 10:9)

Now this is something real that happened inside of you. You cannot see the change, but it is real.

Baptism is a symbol of what Jesus did to save us from our sin. Remember the verse that told us what Jesus did?

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Baptism is a symbol of that. In baptism you are lowered (immersed) under the water which represents Jesus' death and burial.

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...that he was buried”

When you are brought up out of the water it represents when Jesus was raised from the dead.

“that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”

Baptism also represents what happened inside of you. Before we were saved we were spiritually dead in our sins but when we were saved God made us alive.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you are saved!”
(Ephesians 2:4-5)

This is called the baptism of the Spirit. When we believe in Jesus, we are made alive by the Spirit of God who now lives in us.

“And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation) – when you believed in Christ – you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 1:13)

We also see this pictured in baptism.

When we are lowered (immersed) under the water we are showing that our sin was buried with Christ and when we come out of the water we show that we too now have been given a new life.

“Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.”
(Romans 6:3-4)

So baptism not only symbolizes what Jesus did for us, it is also a symbol of what Jesus did to us when he washed our sins away.

Baptism is also something that Jesus himself did as an example for us.

“Now in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River” (Mark 1:9)

Jesus commanded us to make disciples which is a person who believes in Jesus. He also told us to baptize them.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you “ (Matthew 28:19-20)

The early church followed that example. After they received the Holy Spirit and began preaching about Jesus they baptized everyone who believed.

“So those who accepted his message were baptized” (Acts 2:41)

So why do people get baptized?

When a person is saved they get baptized because:

- Baptism is a symbol of what Jesus did for us.
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

- Baptism is a symbol of what happened to us.
(Romans 6:3-4)

- Jesus was baptized as an example for us.
(Matthew 3:13-15)

- Jesus commanded us to do so.
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Baptism is one of the first acts you do to obey Jesus and by letting others see this symbolic act on the outside, it will help them know what happened to you on the inside. Maybe then other people will want to be saved too.

