

New Identity Ministries


# WHY WATER BAPTISM?



**Why not water baptism?** There are many reasons why we would choose to be water baptized. One is that Jesus actually commanded it (Matt. 28:19). Not only that, but Jesus Himself was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:13-15). These two reasons should be enough for water baptism.

While Jesus said in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." it is important to realize that baptism is not a requirement for salvation. Yes, it is a wonderful act of faith, but without the redemptive work of Jesus – His death, burial and resurrection – water baptism would be pointless. Salvation is produced when we confess with our mouth Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and believe in our heart that God rose Him from the dead (Rom. 10:9-11). However, since Jesus was baptized in water to fulfill all righteousness, and He commanded us to baptize and be baptized, why would we refuse?

See inside for more wonderful reasons for water baptism.



“ Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ”

*2 Cor 5:17*

## BRAND NEW NATURE

Water baptism is a **sign and celebration** of a profound life-changing event: our commitment to choose Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It is a public declaration that we have chosen to follow Jesus's example. It is an experience that we can always remember and treasure in our heart, reminding us that we truly do have a brand new righteous nature (2 Cor. 5:17) and helping us to walk victorious in this life. It is symbolic of our old nature being buried with Christ unto His death and raised to new life with Him (Romans 6:4-7). We can go forward with a clear conscience, focused on our new identity in Christ; not on sin, as our old sin nature died and was buried with Him.

“ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ”

*Romans 6:11*

## PERSONAL CHOICE

Water Baptism is also a personal choice that we make as we mature (Luke 3:21); an opportunity to **act** on our new profession of faith (true faith requires action (James 2:17)). It is different from infant baptism which is a decision by parents to raise their children in the faith they follow. This personal choice is an action that both resists the devil and acts as a witness, identifying ourselves as one with Christ.

## BRAND NEW LIFE

Water baptism represents the beginning of a brand new life. In Romans 6:4-6,11, Paul refers to baptism as a command to “walk in newness of life” and become “alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord,” with an outward sign of an inward change of heart and mind. “...we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” This powerful picture that Paul uses tells us in Col. 3:9-10 that “you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge...” Notice that this is past tense -- a done deal. The Greek word “baptizo” means to cause something to be dipped, immersed, into a medium and removed from a different medium. Water baptism is just that: we are dipped into the water, leaving our old nature [old carnal self] behind, and raised into a brand new life [spirit filled]!

## HEAVENS OPENED

Our Pastor Ron was baptized in water. When he came out of the water, the heavens opened for him. It was confirmed in his spirit that he had a new life, that he was brand new and he knew it (Matt 3:16; Luke 3:21). As he rode home, he knew the flowers and the trees and all creation were from the Creator who loved him. You can have the same experience. Jesus was baptized, and so were the new believers when the church was first born (Acts 2:41). So, as His disciple, why not follow what He did (Mt 3:13-16)?

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:”

*Matthew 3:13-16*

## INVITATION

New Identity Ministries loves you. We rejoice that you have decided to get water baptized. We believe this is an important sign of faith in what Jesus has done for you. If you would like to get water baptized (Pastor Ron would be happy to baptize you), contact us and we would be happy to make arrangements.

We invite you to attend the Gatherings and Connect Groups at New Identity Ministries. It is important to find out more about who you are in Christ and what you have now as a new believer, and to surround yourself with others who are like minded.

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