

# “What You’re Afraid to Ask About Baptism”

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## 1. Is baptism only a New Testament practice?

No, baptism is not just a New Testament practice but comes from several cleansing or washing practices in the Old Testament.

- The word baptism means– “to be fully wet by immersion in water” as a ceremonial celebration of the absolution of a person’s sins through Jesus Christ.
- A person baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is considered the **property** of that Name (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- Before any person is fit to serve God, he/she must be washed before God by the **blood of Jesus Christ**.

## 2. Is baptism a necessary component of salvation?

No, the study of all related verses clearly indicates baptism is not required for salvation.

- Only four verses (Mark 16:16, Act 2:38, Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21) out of over 50 seem to say baptism is a necessary component of salvation. All other verses, hundreds, (example-Romans 3:28, 5:1, 10:9), about faith, belief and baptism combined, and the cultural reason for three of the verses, clearly say baptism is **not** a necessary component of salvation.
- Nana’s story: a modern day illustration of the reason for three of the four verses.

### **3. Why then should I be baptized?**

Because I have accepted God's gift of salvation in Jesus and want to publicly state I want to serve Him.

- Baptism says I have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and accepted that Jesus Christ paid for my sins on the cross. Jesus said, "I am the only way to relationship with God the Father." (John 14:6)
- Baptism also declares another important, often overlooked, aspect: the desire, willingness and readiness to **serve** the Lord who gave the person eternal life and to whom he/she belongs.

### **4. Some practical issues about today's service.**

- As the song "Watergrave" closes, if you desire baptism, please make your way to the back to speak with an Elder.
- "I don't have a change of clothes." Baptismal clothing will be provided for you.
- "Will I have to say something when I'm baptized?" No, unless you desire and speak to the Elder about it.
- "Will I have to take some kind of classes later?" Classes will be available later to better help you understand your commitment to the Lord.
- "Must I be a member of CBC to be baptized?" No, just a member of God's family.
- "Is this a way for CBC to get new members?" No, this is not a sneaky backdoor method for CBC to get new members.