

## CT Church, New Believers

### Water Baptism

#### Chapter 3

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As a new Christian or someone who is rededicating one's life to Christ, water baptism will be one of the more significant events in identifying yourself as a Christian, a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ. Baptism is an act of worship that new believers express their faith and commitment.

*"...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God..." - 1Peter 3:21*

Baptism doesn't wash your sins away as many like to refer, but what it is, is a pledge (just as the above scripture indicates) to live a life for Christ.

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"  
-Matthew 28:19*

#### What Does It Mean?

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The word *baptism* comes from the Greek word *baptizo*  
*-the process of immersion, submersion or to be fully wet.*

The Ethiopian eunuch was immersed by Phillip:

*"...Then both Phillip and the eunach went down in to the water and Philip baptized him." – Acts 8:38*

In baptism, the immersion of the believer symbolizes his/her death to sin and his/her resurrection to the new life he/she now has in Christ.

The believer outwardly affirms the inward commitment he has made to Jesus as the Lord of his/her life. Read what Jesus says about your outward expression:

*"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." - Matthew 10:32*

As a Christian, you have committed yourself to live as a follower of Christ and who have followed in the example Christ Himself set when He was baptized.

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(See: Mt 3:13-17, Mk 1:9-11, Lk 3:21-22)

*“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for me to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.” – **Matthew 3:13-15***

#### Is Baptism Required?

##### Is baptism required?

Water baptism is not required to receive God’s gift of salvation. When Jesus was being crucified there was a convicted criminal being sentenced to death on a cross next to Him and he was given the promise of salvation, entrance into the Kingdom of God without water baptism.

*“Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.’” – **Luke 23:42-43***

It was his belief and his confession that Jesus is Lord (*Romans 10:9*) that saved him. There was no opportunity to be water baptized.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” – **Ephesians 2:8-9***

#### A New Nature and A New Creation

##### A new nature, a new creation

Water baptism confirms the fact that your old sin nature has been crucified and buried and that you have put on a new Godly nature. You have made a new commitment to serve Jesus, and you have separated yourself from your old life style.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come!” – **2Corinthians 5:17***

Your works and efforts are not good enough...

*“...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...” – **Isaiah 64:6***

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#### When Should You Be Water Baptized?

##### When should you be water baptized?

- After you believe – completely trust in Christ’s death and resurrection for your salvation.
- After you repent – turn away from sin, and follow Jesus.

#### Who Can Baptize?

##### Who can baptize?

According to Scripture, any believer in Christ can baptize you in water (as demonstrated with Phillip’s baptism of the Ethiopian in the book of Acts or even John’s baptism of Jesus). Here at Community Transformation Church we prefer to have ordained ministers or appointed leaders to perform baptisms.

If you have accepted Christ and have truly turned toward Him, now is the time to follow Him in water baptism. Talk to one of your Life Group leaders, or one of the pastors to help you arrange to be water baptized.

*“but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” – **John 4:14***

*“...Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...” – **Acts 2:38***