

KEY TEXT:

Matthew 28:19 New International Version (NIV)

19 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,

VIDEO: What Is Baptism

3 Whys of Baptism

Because Jesus SAID So

Isaiah 55:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Have you ever heard someone say “because I said So”. There will be times we don’t understand why God is asking us to do something. In those times we must trust that He knows what He is doing even if we don’t and that it is for our good.

Baptism gives us a good start in putting into practice the faith that we will have to use throughout our Christian lives. If for no other reason than the fact that he said we should do it

Sometimes the why doesn’t become clear until after we have obediently done what Jesus asks us to do. So we do it believing that there is a good reason and purpose behind what he asks of us. We do it believing that it is important because he said so. We do it believing that something important happens inside of us when we conform to his commands

Because it’s a STATEMENT of your faith

What is something that you have that makes a statement?

A statement says something about who you are, what you believe, what you like, what you don’t like

Baptism is making a statement that you get it.

- There is a God

- He created me and loves me
- There is an eternity either heaven or hell
- Without The forgiveness and salvation offered by Jesus Christ, I will never make it to heaven
- I believe He is the Son of God, that He is God, that He died for me and that He rose from the dead proving that all this is true
- I want to live for Him
- I have asked Him to forgive my sins and come into my heart
- I'm not ashamed for others to know about my faith

Acts 8:35-38 (NASB)

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Because it's the START of Something new

There's nothing like something clean, fresh and new. You take a shower and wash all the dirt and sweat away. You feel new and refreshed. You buy a new outfit and wear it for the first time.

Likewise, Baptism is the start of something new.

Romans 6:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

The question is then, "how do we maintain and grow in that new life that Christ has given us?"

Romans says that we definitely can't go back to the old ways

How do we become spiritually transformed so that we will not quickly become aborted believers or simply casual Christians?

It is tragic when, because of a physical affliction, a child fails to mature and mentally remains a baby for life. It's even more tragic when a person becomes a child of God through salvation and then fails to mature spiritually. Receiving life is not enough; you must nourish that life.

Jesus gives us the key in the Matthew 28:20, the very next verse following our key text today

Matthew 28:20 New Living Translation (NLT)

²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Read, study and memorize the Bible
- Pray and talk to God everyday
- Attend church regularly, study the Bible with and have fellowship with like minded believers
- Strive for obedience to the things You are learning

VIDEO: Baptism Testimony