

## Who is to be baptized

**Acts 2:38** Peter *said* to them, “**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (41) So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

**Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

When the Ethiopian eunuch believed the word that was preached by Philip, we read the following account:

**Acts 8:36** 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.

If you believe in Christ you are to be baptized.

## What does baptism signify

**Rom 6:3** *Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life* [we walk in the likeness of a resurrected life].

Romans 6 goes on to speak of this dual meaning of baptism. That we have died with Christ and so we now may live in Christ. Every verse of this paragraph (verses 2-10) proclaims that we have died, 10 times. Three times Paul eludes to our being raised with Christ. **DEATH** and **RESURRECTION** are the key metaphors for the symbol of baptism and it is our death to sin and to the world and our being raised to a new life that events in our understanding of baptism and in understanding the new life we proclaim in Christ. There is a two-fold experience of the believer that baptism represents.

*First, it represents our death in Christ.* We have died with Christ and this is repeatedly brought up in the Bible. Now as we choose to identify with Christ's death, there are three things we are to die to:

- 1. We die to sin (Romans 6:6, 11)**
- 2. We die to self (Galatians 2:20)**
- 3. We die to the world (Gal 6:14)**

*Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self ["old man"] was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin, (7) for he who has died is freed from sin... Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*Gal 2:20*

*Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

*Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

*Secondly, we are raised with Him (spiritually)*

We choose to live a new life for Christ

*Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you WERE ALSO RAISED UP WITH HIM through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

*Col 3:1 If therefore, you HAVE BEEN RAISED with Christ, keep seeking the things above.*

*Eph 2:4 But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER with Christ...(6) and RAISED US UP WITH HIM and seated us with Him in the heavenly places [see also John 5:24-29].*

*Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power.*