

Yes, If You Were Not Baptized Into Jesus's Church

True baptism results in being added to Jesus's one church. God demonstrates a connection between being baptized and Jesus's church. For, baptism is essential for salvation and Jesus's church is composed of those who are saved. When the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached in its truth, the kingdom of God is proclaimed (centering on the fact that Jesus Christ is King and calling people to submit to His rule over their lives, Acts 8:12-13). Therefore, whenever people are baptized, they are determining to submit their lives to King Jesus – and God adds them to Jesus's one kingdom that consists of those who are saved by His blood (Acts 2:41, 47). This is the church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27). If you were not added to Jesus's one church when you were baptized, you need to be baptized!

God does not add anyone to any other church. The message the Spirit has revealed in the pages of Scripture should result in people being obedient and being baptized. When this happens, we have seen that such a one is baptized into Jesus's body (church, 1 Corinthians 12:13). This is not something that is voted on by any person. And, this baptism does not add anyone to any other church besides Jesus's (Acts 2:41, 47). Unfortunately, some churches today teach baptism as something done to be added to their church (i.e. the Baptist church). Yet, such churches did not even exist in Bible times! If you were taught to be baptized to be added to any church other than Jesus's one true church, you need to be baptized!

Conclusion

Do you need to be baptized according to the teachings of Scripture? While you only need to be baptized once to please God, that one time must have been in obedience to what God teaches about baptism. If you have sinned and never been baptized, the answer is clear that you need to be baptized! If you have been baptized before, you need to carefully evaluate the various elements connected with baptism we have considered – and be baptized Scripturally if there is any deficiency. If, for any reason, you think or question whether you need to be baptized, do not delay to obey God and get baptized today!

Do You Need To Be Baptized?



The Bible teaches the practice of baptism. Recognizing this, many religious organizations practice something called “baptism” (though it takes different forms). Today, there are many people who have either never been baptized or have been baptized in a way that fails to fulfill God's requirements concerning baptism. So, it is important for you to consider whether you need to be baptized – even if you have experienced something called “baptism” before (Acts 19:1-5). For, there is only one baptism that pleases God today (Ephesians 4:5). This is accomplished through the one action and for the reasons God has commanded.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn about those the Bible teaches need to be baptized so as to please God and be saved.

Yes, If You Have Sinned And Have Never Been Baptized

The sinless do not need to be baptized. As we will see, baptism is something commanded to be forgiven of sin. Yet, the Bible teaches that those who are not yet morally and spiritually accountable before God have not sinned (i.e. infants, young children, mentally disabled, Deuteronomy 1:39). The simple fact is that every person is born into this world free from sin (Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 18:1-4). Then, each person makes the choice to sin at some point later in life and, thus, experiences spiritual death (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23). So, if you have not yet become accountable to God and sinned, you do not need to be baptized.

Baptism is an essential step in being saved. Many have grown to the point of being able to make decisions for themselves and are capable of knowing right from wrong on a spiritual level – and have sinned as the result (Romans 3:23). If this describes your situation and you have never been baptized, you must be baptized to be saved. The book of Acts (which describes many examples of conversion) demonstrates how sinners needed to be baptized so they could be saved (Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19).

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Furthermore, the Bible plainly teaches that baptism is necessary to be forgiven of your sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16), to be saved from your sins and have everlasting life in Heaven (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21), and to be added to Jesus's church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27). If you have sinned and have not been baptized, you need to be baptized!

Yes, If You Did Not Obey The Prerequisites To Baptism

God has commanded more than just baptism to be saved. It may be that you were baptized at one point in your life but, perhaps, did not realize that God has also commanded other things to precede baptism – or simply did not obey them. A full look at the Bible's teachings about salvation reveals the following. God requires people to hear His saving gospel message (Romans 1:16; 10:17), to believe Jesus is the Christ (Messiah, Promised One), Son of God, and Savior of the world (John 8:24; Acts 18:8), to repent (look on past sins with abhorrence and determine to live for God, Acts 2:38; 3:19), and to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Son of God (Acts 8:36-39; Romans 10:9-10). If you were baptized without any of these things being present and genuine in your life, you need to be baptized!

Baptism involves a commitment to Christ. All of the aforementioned steps are not a mere "checklist" to complete before being baptized. Rather, they all are crucial to your making a true commitment to being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Consider, for example, how Romans 6:1-4 demonstrates that those who have been baptized now live different than they did prior (having put the old person of sin to death). This is why Jesus taught people to count the cost of discipleship before deciding to follow Him (Luke 14:25-33). Those who are truly baptized, then, will have made a firm commitment to turn from their old sinful ways and live for Christ as Lord, Savior, and King (though this does not mean you will never sin afterwards). If you were baptized without making this firm commitment to Jesus Christ, you need to be baptized!

Yes, If You Were Not Immersed In Water

The required action of Bible baptism. Since God is the one who has commanded baptism, it is entirely up to Him to define the action that fulfills this requirement. A basic study of the Greek reveals that the word for "baptism" actually means immersion! Furthermore, the Bible pictures immersion as the proper action of baptism (John 3:23; Mark 1:9; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39). In addition, the Bible describes baptism as a burial (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12). So, it is immersion in water (Acts 8:36)

that fulfills God's command. If you have not been immersed in water, you need to be baptized!

Sprinkling and pouring do not accomplish what baptism requires.

In the Greek language, there are entirely different words for the actions of sprinkling or pouring that God could have used when commanding baptism. But, He did not! Instead, He chose a word that means immersion. Yet, there are many churches today that practice what they call "baptism" by sprinkling or pouring water on a person. Such a practice is entirely without Biblical support – and simply does not obey what God says must be done. And, those who do not obey the gospel will not be saved (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 5:9). If you have only been "baptized" through sprinkling or pouring, you need to be baptized!

Yes, If You Were Not Baptized For The Right Reasons

Baptism is necessary for forgiveness and salvation. Not only is it important for you to consider *if* or *how* you have been baptized, but it is also important for you to consider *why* you were baptized. The majority of churches today simply do not teach that a person must be baptized to be saved. Rather, they teach that baptism is an "outward sign of an inward grace" (i.e. a public declaration of your faith in Jesus). So, they often teach that a person is saved first (often through faith only and a prayer) and then baptized later to publicly show their salvation. However, this is not the proper purpose God teaches concerning baptism. Consequently, this baptism is not true obedience to God. God teaches that baptism is *essential* to having your sins forgiven (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and to being saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21). If you have been baptized believing you were already saved and forgiven of your sins, you need to be baptized!

You cannot be taught wrong and baptized right. Many people in churches today have been taught baptism is *not essential* for salvation. Then, when they hear the true teaching of Scripture about baptism, it is easy to convince themselves they have been baptized Scripturally. Yet, one of the good tests to evaluate your baptism is to consider what the church you were worshiping with when you were baptized teaches/taught about baptism. Although it is possible that you had studied the Scriptures and learned the truth about baptism for yourself, the chances are high that you believed and obeyed what the church taught about baptism. And, if you did not know the true purpose of baptism when you were baptized, you could not have obeyed (Romans 10:17; Acts 18:8). And, the Scriptures teach those who were baptized previously for the wrong reasons should be re-baptized (Acts 19:1-5). If you have been baptized after being taught wrong, you need to be baptized!