

# Why Do We Baptize People?

Mt 3:1-17; 28:17-20

## I. Introduction

## II. Baptism in Jesus' Life and the Early Church

### A. John prepared the way for Jesus with baptism

(Mt 3:1-12//Mk 1:3-8; Lk 3:2-17)

#### 1. Urgent preparation

#### 2. Nature of baptism

Like the baptism of new converts to Judaism (proselytes): John was treating fellow Jews as if they were spiritually Gentiles

#### 3. Repentance

a. You turn from the old way of life to the new

b. Afterwards, your life should match your confession

### B. Jesus was baptized by John

(Mt 3:13-17//Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21, 22; Jn 1:31-34)

#### 1. John recognized Jesus as the ultimate baptizer

#### 2. Jesus was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness”

#### 3. God declares his public approval of Jesus at his baptism

### C. Jesus' disciples baptized during Jesus' ministry

(Jn 3:22-26)

#### 1. A move from preparation to the starting point

#### 2. The reality of what John announced

#### 3. The proper response of “fruit in keeping with repentance” (Mt 3:8)

### D. Jesus commanded the disciples/apostles to baptize

(Mt 28:19-20)

### E. The early church baptized

#### 1. People who accepted Peter's message at Pentecost (Acts 2:36-41)

#### 2. The Ethiopian eunuch immediately (Acts 8:36-40)

#### 3. Paul was baptized the day (hour?) he believed (Acts 9:17-19)\

#### 4. Cornelius and his group immediately (Acts 10:44-48)

#### 5. Philippian jailor and family middle of the night (Acts 16:29-34)

6. Disciples in Ephesus who were already baptized (Acts 19:1-7)
7. The Corinthians' baptism story (1 Cor 1:13-17)

### III. Summary

- A. Disciples=followers of Jesus=believers=God's people
- B. The first step in making a disciple is baptism
- C. Baptism goes together with repentance
- D. The two are the believers' first response → expression of the new believer's faith
- E. The place and person baptizing are not as important as the event

### IV. What happened? We'll talk about this on April 25

Church history  
Special cases

### V. What do we do?

If you're not baptized, be baptized and fulfill all righteousness

If you are baptized, think hard about how you share Christ.  
Determine according to the Bible:

What do people need to know to believe?

How should they be asked to respond?