

Water Baptism

Why get baptised?

Jesus Himself was baptised with water at the beginning of his ministry (Mark 3:13-15, Luke 3:21). And he commanded us to be baptised with water (Matthew 28:19-20).

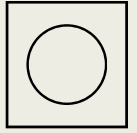
Being baptised with water is a demonstration of our obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a practical demonstration of a spiritual reality that has already taken place.

"Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."

Colossians 2:12 NIV

It is a public declaration of our faith in Jesus. A declaration of our decision to trust Him with our lives, and our decision to leave behind old habit patterns of sin and selfishness.





When to Get Baptised

A personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only requirement for water baptism. When you received the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, you took part in his death, burial and resurrection. In other words, you became alive to God and a child of God (John 1:10 - 12). Water baptism simply signifies what has already taken place in your life (Romans 6:1-5).

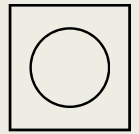
Philip the evangelist baptised the Ethiopian eunuch immediately after he received the gospel and Cornelius and his household were baptised with water after God poured out the Holy Spirit on them (read Acts 8: 26-40 and Acts 10:24-48).

Jesus was baptised with water at the very beginning of his early ministry (Matthew 3:3-15). It is an act of obedience we should fulfill as soon as time and opportunity permit.



That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.

ROMANS 6:2-4 MSG



How to Get Baptised

Water baptism in the bible involves total immersion (or dipping) in water (Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38-39). Here at C3 Hobart, we generally use a baptism tank that is placed in the auditorium so that the church community can participate and witness the baptism as part of a Sunday service.

There are 3 parts to the physical act of water baptism:

Firstly, we pause in the water. The person being baptised will be in between two people - usually a pastor from our church on one side, and a trusted church friend or relative on the other. As we pause in this moment we identify with Jesus and the public life He lived.

Secondly, you will be gently pushed back by the people on either side of you until you are completely covered by the waters, and held there for the briefest of moments. In this we identify with the death and burial of Jesus, who was crucified on a cross and laid in a tomb.

Thirdly, we are lifted up from the waters and we again pause in this moment. This is a picture of the resurrection power of God who raised Jesus from the dead on the third day of His burial. It is a picture of the resurrection power of God, who gives us new life in Christ.

Questions to assist you if considering baptism:

1. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?
2. Have you repented of your sins?
3. Have you decided to live your life for Jesus?

If you've answered these questions in the affirmative, and you would like be water baptised, please fill in the form at c3hobart.org.au/baptism and we'll be in touch with you to discuss taking this next step in your faith journey!

