

Why should I be baptized?

1. Because Jesus did it

Matt 3:13-15, *"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented."*

2. Because Jesus commanded it

Matt 28:19-20, *"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

3. Because it is the gateway to forgiveness & blessing

Acts 2:38-39, *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

4. Because it removes all reasons for discrimination

I.e. baptism is the great unifier
See Galatians 3:26-29

5. Because it separates the old from the new

I.e. baptism is a line of demarcation in the Christian's life
1 Corinthians 10:1-2, *"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea."*

6. Because it builds a memorial

Jewish people used to build altars to remind them of significant events
Baptism is an altar, a memorial – a visual representation of a significant event in your life.

7. Because it declares that you are clean

In Jesus' day people were baptized at every major life event

(single engaged; engaged married; disciple rabbi)

The most common reason to be baptized was when someone was being declared to be ceremonially clean

See Matthew 8:1-4

Baptism was a declaration to the community that the unclean person was now clean and that they could touch them without being contaminated. Likewise, New Testament baptism is a powerful public statement that says, "I was once unclean but now I am clean because of the completed work of Jesus for me!"

"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

(A Teaching by Pastor Rob Buckingham from Bayside Church Melbourne, Australia)