

## More Baptism Questions

5. HOW was Jesus' baptism different than ours? When Jesus was baptized, *He agreed to take away our sins*; when we were baptized, God gave us the benefits of Jesus' sinless living and sacrificial dying!
6. WHY was Jesus baptized when He was 30 years old? Baptism began when God sent John to baptize – *only six months before Jesus was baptized*; so, for Jesus and for others, *the opportunity to be baptized had only recently become available*. Think about cell phones... did you have one when you were young? Why not?
7. WHY don't all churches baptize babies? For churches who believe **God IS at work in baptism, THEY DO**; however, for churches who believe **God IS NOT at work in baptism, THEY DON'T** (see these key passages: [Acts 2:38](#); [22:16](#); [Romans 5:3-5](#); [Galatians 3:27](#); [Titus 3:5](#)).
8. WHEN should a person be baptized? *As soon as possible!* Imagine your infant has a terminal illness, and then you discover a definite cure is available in Chicago! *Would you immediately make plans for your child to go and receive? YES!* Since all infants have the terminal illness of sin, *shouldn't all parents make immediate plans for their child to receive God's cure through baptism!*
9. CAN an infant receive a gift from God? *Certainly!* If I put money into an infant's bank account, *he wouldn't understand at*

*the time*; nevertheless, *the money would still be his*. Parents, as your child grows up, *teach him/her about God's gifts!*

10. HOW should our baptism long ago be a blessing to us today?
  - a. **Recall the gifts:**
    - i. Forgiveness of all sins!
    - ii. Spiritual life, thus alive in Christ!
    - iii. Membership in God's family!
    - iv. Eternal life; we have it now and will have its fullness when Jesus returns!
    - v. The Holy Spirit living inside of us to guide and empower us!
  - b. **Say:** "I AM baptized!" Then, we are confessing that we *are still in possession of God's precious gifts!*

## Conclusion

You are invited to pray: Father in heaven, thank You so much for sending Your Son to take away my sins and, then, for working through Holy Baptism to give me the great gifts listed above! Amen!

For more info or to be baptized, pick up a Baptism Packet or contact the pastor.

## Connect With Us

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**Schedule:** See our "Join Us" brochure  
**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"  
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# BAPTISM

## Questions & Answers



## Introduction

Dear friend in Christ: Baptism is very basic, *yet very important!*

Baptism...

- ➔ What have you heard?
- ➔ What do you know for sure?
- ➔ What does the Bible say?
- ➔ What about Jesus' baptism?
- ➔ What about your baptism?

Among all believers in the world today, *there are many different teachings about baptism*; on some points people agree, but on other points there are major disagreements.

Let's approach the topic like this: It doesn't really matter what I think or what you think, ***what matters is what God says in His Word!*** So please keep reading to discover what God has to say on this very important topic...

# The Baptism of Jesus

This section is based on the Matthew account of Jesus' baptism, as recorded in **Matthew 3:13-17 ESV**:

## 1. **Jesus Came to be Baptized:** <sup>13</sup> **Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.**

- a. **WHEN did Jesus come to John?** The words, **"Then Jesus came"** indicate a particular time. **So when?** After John had been preaching and baptizing for six months, *which was a time when many were coming to hear John and be baptized by him* (see **Matt. 3:1-6**).
- b. **WHY did Jesus come to John?** To be baptized by him, *which indicated Jesus' willingness to* **be the Christ and take away the sin of the world** (*keep reading for more details*).

## 2. **Jesus Had to Convince John to Baptize Him:** <sup>14</sup> **John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"** <sup>15</sup> **But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.**



Die Taufe Christi.  
Bild im Auftrag der evangelischen Kirche, nach Zeichnung von Wilhelm von Schadow, um 1850.

- a. **WHAT is baptism?** *Very simply put: It is God's work to forgive sins* (for more details, see **Acts 2:38-39**)!
  - b. **WHY did John need to be baptized by Jesus?** *Because, just like you and me, he was a sinner!* **Let us realize:** Even though infants look innocent, *they actually have sin.* **But how?** The reality of sin has passed from generation to generation – *ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin* (see these key passages: **Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12**).
  - c. **WHY did Jesus need to convince John to baptize Him?** *Because Jesus is the Son of God and had no sin!*
  - d. **WHAT did Jesus mean when He said, "to fulfill all righteousness"?** *John baptizing Jesus was the NEXT STEP IN JESUS' MISSION to save the world!* **Think about this very basic order:**
    - i. John was born
    - ii. Jesus was born
    - iii. John began baptizing
    - iv. **Jesus was baptized**
    - v. Jesus began His ministry
    - vi. Jesus preached, taught, and did miracles
    - vii. Jesus received our sins and our punishment
- ## 3. **Jesus Was Anointed with the Holy Spirit:** <sup>16</sup> **And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were**

**opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;**

- a. **WHAT changed for Jesus when the Holy Spirit came to rest upon Him?** He officially became the Messiah (*Hebrew*), the Christ (*Greek*); both words mean *the Anointed One*. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, thus we could say *He was commissioned for His saving work!* Compare Samuel anointing David as the next king of Israel (see **1 Samuel 16:13**).
- b. **WHY did the Holy Spirit remain on Jesus?** He was a gift from God the Father for *the human nature* of Jesus. As the Holy Spirit was a huge blessing to Jesus as true man, *so the Holy Spirit is a huge blessing to us as God's forgiven children!*

- ## 4. **Jesus Was Accepted by God the Father:** <sup>17</sup> **and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."** // **HOW can we summarize what has been said so far?** **Lenski, a Lutheran Bible commentator,** wrote this nice summary: **"By the baptism Jesus gives himself to the work of sin-bearing; by the anointing and the voice from heaven the Father accepts him for that work"** (130). *So Jesus offered and the Father accepted; have you ever thought about Jesus' baptism in those ways?*