



INFO ON Baptism for Parents

Many elements of Meck exist so that no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, from just starting to check things out to being a Christ-follower for decades, you can participate as much as you choose to.

Yet there are certain things that the Bible itself tells us for believers, people who have made a commitment to following Christ as best as they can. One of these is baptism. As Christ-followers, we are called by Jesus himself to be baptized, as a public proclamation of this change in our lives ... and in our eternities.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

It illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

"... Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... and he rose again."

– 1Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."

– Colossians 2:12

It illustrates your new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun."

– 2Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so that we may live a new life!"

– Romans 6:4

Yet baptism doesn't make you a Christian.

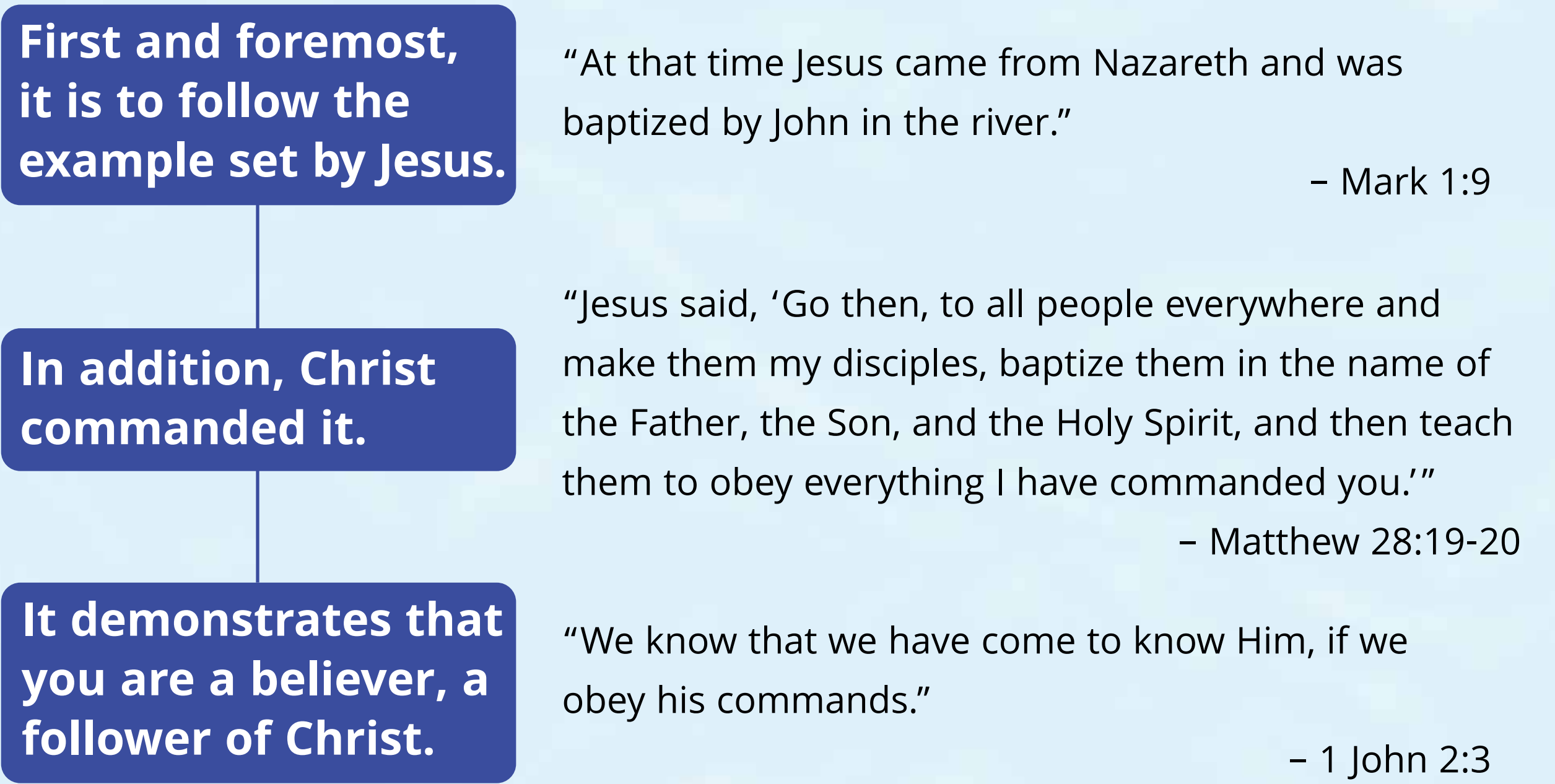
Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart.

see Ephesians 2:8-9

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible says that every person who believes in Christ should be baptized. A believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all personal efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between themselves and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you should be baptized. (See Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).

WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BE BAPTIZED?



WHY IS IMMERSION BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

- It is the method used in Jesus’ baptism.
“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.” – Matthew 3:16
- Every baptism mentioned in the Bible is by immersion.
“Then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ...” –Acts 8:38-39
- The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”
- Immersion best symbolizes Christ’s burial and resurrection.
See Romans 6:1-11
- The founders of the major denominations emphasized immersion.
Martin Luther (Lutheran) “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”
John Calvin (Presbyterian) “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”
John Wesley (Methodist/Wesleyan) “‘Buried with Him’ alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

WHAT IF MY CHILD WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

In the Bible, we see parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them.

So if baptism signifies salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. Thus, the Bible would indicate that baptism is for people who have made a decision to follow Christ.

If your child has not experienced believer’s baptism, even though they have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in their life. We strongly encourage your child to be baptized as a believer in Christ.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This is a time when parents pledge their commitment to raise their child according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not Christian baptism; it is not mentioned in the Bible.

CAN OLDER CHILRDEN BE BAPTIZED?

All instances of baptism in the New Testament occur following an individual’s decision to trust Christ alone for salvation (See Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At Meck, that means we wait to baptize until a child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we then joyously baptize them in the Christian faith after conferring with the parents.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day.”
– Acts 2:41

“But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.”
– Acts 8:12

“Then Peter asked, ‘Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?’ So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”
– Acts 10:47-48