

Spiritual disciplines for a healthy church

9. Why do we baptise?

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Introduction

- A crime punishable by death?
- **Four questions** on baptism:

WHY should we baptise?

- Jesus' command (Matt. 28:19)
- Jesus' example (Matt. 3:13-17, 1 Jn. 2:6)

WHAT does baptism mean?

- A picture of cleansing (Acts 22:16)
- A picture of conversion (Rom. 6:3-5)
- An initiation into the church (Eph. 4:5)

WHO should we baptise?

- Infant baptism? (Col. 2:11, Acts 16:32, 34)
- Believers' baptism (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38, 41, 18:8)

HOW should we baptise?

- Usually immersion (Mark 1:10, Acts 8:38-39)

Conclusion

Acts 16:25-34 (NIV)

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Some resources:

Victor Jack, "*Believe and be baptised*" (free booklet available on the welcome table, good for thinking about baptism)