

## Introduction

1. Does the church baptize just anyone?
2. To fully answer this question, we will look at:
  - a. The purpose of baptism.
  - b. The prerequisites of baptism.

## I. The Purpose of Baptism

1. The purpose of baptism is for the remission of sins ([Ac. 2:38](#)).
  - a. Remission means forgiveness ([Eph. 1:7](#)).
2. Baptism is not an outward sign of an inward faith.
  - a. It is for the remission of sins ([Lk. 24:46-47](#)).
3. Baptism is not because sins have already been forgiven.
  - a. This false teaching makes a mockery of Christ's sacrifice.
  - b. The same grammatical structure of [Ac. 2:38](#) is found in [Mt. 26:28](#).
  - c. Clearly, Jesus did not shed His blood because sins were already forgiven!
  - d. Jesus shed His blood so that sins could be forgiven.

## II. The Prerequisites to Baptism

1. The individual must be a sinner ([1 Tim. 1:15](#)).
  - a. Sin is the violation of God's Law ([1 Jn. 3:4](#), [5:17](#); [Jm. 4:17](#); [Rm. 14:23](#); [1 Jn. 3:20](#); [2 Jn. 9-11](#)).
  - b. All accountable people will sin at some point ([Rm. 3:23](#), [7:9](#)).
  - c. Newborns, infants, and young children are excluded since they have no sin to begin with ([Ps. 106:37-38](#); [Ezek. 18:20](#)).
2. The individual must realize that he/she is lost and separated from God due to his/her sins ([Isa. 59:1-2](#)).
  - a. This requires some ability to think and reason ([Isa. 1:18](#)).
  - b. Sin has wages and those wages are death ([Rm. 6:23](#)).
3. The individual must hear the Gospel ([Rm. 10:17](#)).
  - a. Christianity is a taught religion ([Jn. 6:44-45](#); [Heb. 8:10-12](#)).
  - b. The individual must know the Gospel facts ([1 Cor. 15:1-8](#)).
  - c. The individual must know about Christ's church and authority ([Ac. 8:12](#)).
  - d. Hearing precedes believing and baptism ([Ac. 18:8](#)).
4. The individual must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God ([Heb. 11:6](#)).
  - a. This is belief that Jesus is God ([Jn. 8:24](#), [58](#); [Ex. 3:14](#)).
  - b. Belief is indeed a work ([Jn. 6:28-29](#)).
  - c. Belief is needed, but not belief alone ([Mk. 16:16](#)).
  - d. Belief precedes baptism ([Ac. 16:31-34](#)).

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5. The individual must count the cost of becoming a Christian ([Lk. 14:25-33](#)).
  - a. This includes commitment to Christ (cf. [Lk. 9:57-62](#)).
  - b. The reward is out of this world ([Tt. 1:2](#); [Col. 1:5](#))!
6. The individual must have godly sorrow for his/her sins which leads to repentance ([2 Cor. 7:9-10](#)).
  - a. This is not “sorry that I got caught,” but sorrow that will produce positive change for the better.
7. The individual must repent of his/her sins.
  - a. Repentance is a universal command applicable to all human beings ([Ac. 17:30](#); [2 Pt. 3:9](#)).
  - b. Repentance precedes baptism ([Ac. 2:38](#)).
  - c. Baptism is not a magic wand that fixes habitual sin.
  - d. Baptism cleanses *past* sins that are repented of.
8. The individual must confess their belief that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God ([Rm. 10:9-10](#)).
  - a. If I do not confess Christ, then He will not confess me before the Father ([Mt. 10:32-33](#)).
  - b. This is a **public** confession ([1 Tim. 6:12](#))!
  - c. Christians are salt and light ([Mt. 5:13-16](#)).
  - d. Confession precedes baptism ([Ac. 8:36-38](#)).
9. The individual must understand what baptism is, what it is for, and what it does.
  - a. Baptism is a new birth ([Jn. 3:1-5](#)).
  - b. Baptism is a marriage to Christ ([Rm. 7:4](#); [2 Cor. 11:1-3](#)).
  - c. Baptism is a burial ([Col. 2:11-13](#); [Rm. 6:1-4](#)).
  - d. Baptism is for the remission of sins ([Ac. 2:38-47](#)).
  - e. Baptism is for salvation ([Mk. 16:16](#); [1 Pt. 3:21](#)).
  - f. Baptism adds one to the church ([1 Cor. 12:13](#); [Ac. 2:47](#)).

### Conclusion

1. The church baptizes those who meet the requirements of baptism.
2. Newborns, infants, and young children have no need to be saved as they have no sin.
3. The individual who is accountable but does not meet the prerequisites for baptism is not ready for baptism.
4. If you are ready to be baptized and meet the requirements, then please do not delay obeying today!