

# WATER BAPTISM

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Dayton Chi Alpha | Discipleship Resource

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## Why Should I Be Baptized in Water?

Water Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus' command. After His resurrection, one of the last things Jesus told His followers was: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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" (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus commands us to make disciples and baptize them!

## What Does Baptism Symbolize?

Baptism is a picture of new life. It symbolizes burial and resurrection and newness of life! When someone becomes a follower of Jesus, the old self, ruled by sin and death, has died, and they become a new creation. Going into the water symbolizes this death of the old self, and coming up out of the water symbolizes being born again, the new resurrected self (Romans 6:1-4).

Baptism also portrays our relationship with Jesus. We are baptized "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." It is a picture of our allegiance to the Triune God who has reconciled us to Himself and calls us His children. He has redeemed us from the enemy, He loves us, He has made us a new creation, and He is at work in all of us.

Baptism is a public declaration of salvation and new identity in Christ. This is an opportunity for you to step out in your identity in the Gospel (Son/Daughter of King, Missionary, Servant) and declare your faith before friends and family. It is an opportunity for your faith to transition from an internal focus to an external one.

Because Water Baptism is a public declaration, you are encouraged you invite you roommates, classmates, language partner, family or whomever else. Many non-Christians understand Jesus more after seeing a baptism service.

## What Can I Expect at My Baptism?

Please sign up on the website - [DaytonXA.org/baptisms](http://DaytonXA.org/baptisms) If you are baptized at XA Service, wear what you would normally wear to XA Service. However, you should also bring a change of clothes (dark colored shorts and t-shirt) to wear when you are baptized. Some may choose to bring their own robes as a part of their church tradition, but Chi Alpha does not provide robes.

Baptism consists of a public declaration of faith followed by full immersion in water. A Chi Alpha staff member will perform your baptism, but we would like you to pick a student leader or two to join you in the pool, as a way of acknowledging their influence in your life. Before you are immersed, you will be asked to share a one-minute testimony, then answer the following question: "Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and commit to follow Him all the days of your life?" Once you say "Yes," the staff worker will say, "Upon profession of your faith, I baptize you, \_\_\_\_\_, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" as they immerse you.