

The background of the image is an underwater scene with clear blue water and numerous bubbles of various sizes rising from the bottom. The lighting is bright, creating a shimmering effect on the water and bubbles.

**HAVE YOU BEEN
BAPTIZED?**

BAPTISM

- In our conversations with religious friends and acquaintances, it doesn't take long for baptism to come up. More often than not, it's accompanied by some awkwardness over the fact that "baptism" can mean a lot of different things depending on your denomination or background.
- So does it really matter how, why, or when a person is baptized? Are all supposed baptisms equal – and do they accomplish the same thing (if anything at all)?

HOW

- There is a consistency to NT baptism. Every command or example indicates consent (agency), in water, full immersion, and as a necessary part of salvation.
- Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:12-13, 8:36-38, 22:16, 10:47-48, 16:15, 16:33, 18:8, etc.
- The word baptism literally means to bury or immerse. It includes the entire process of immersing, submerging, and removing.
- So why are there so many different "baptisms"?

HOW

- Remember, there is only one baptism that saves, not many (Ephesians 4:5). Calling something baptism while it is fundamentally different than the Biblical definition just creates a misnomer.
- People are attached to false definitions for many reasons – tradition, misinformation, convenience, or even genuine belief.
- But even genuine belief in something false doesn't make it true. Sprinkling a baby with water is not the same thing as immersing a consenting, repentant adult.

WHY

- Acts 2:38 – “For”, “unto”, or “in order to” the remission of sins. Acts 22:16 similarly connects removal of sins with baptism.
- Romans 6 – Baptism is the death of the old person. As Christ died, was buried, and then raised up, baptism allows us to undergo the same spiritual process of rebirth. Verse 4 uses “in order that” (*hina* in Greek), which means “for the purpose of” or “looking to an intended result.”
- Colossians 2:12 – “In which” means that God works with our faith in baptism to raise us up.

WHY

- The “why” behind baptism must mean something, otherwise we become nothing but empty ritualists – or worse, we might believe the water itself has magical qualities.
- No! Baptism without faith is meaningless, just as baptism for the wrong reasons or under pretense cannot accomplish anything.
- Acts 19:1-7
- 1 Peter 3:21

WHEN

- Not when you're a baby or small child, before sin has brought about spiritual downfall. Otherwise, what's the point?
- There is also an element of avoiding delay (Acts 22:16). You can't put it off for a more convenient time (2 Corinthians 6:1-2)...
- Because that more convenient time might never come. There will be no "last minute" baptisms when the judgment day comes. Every appeal to God is pointless once we've reached that point (Matthew 7:21-23, Romans 14:10-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-10).