

# Baptism



A downloadable resource  
from

Melton Mowbray  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**

## Baptism in the New Testament

*There are several compelling reasons from the Bible why we put an emphasis on baptism:*

### **Jesus Taught Baptism**

*Jesus gave clear instructions to his church and followers in the Great Commission about baptism. So being baptised is a sign of obedience.*

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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.*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

### **Jesus was Baptised**

*John the Baptist tried to prevent Jesus from being baptised – simply because Jesus had never done anything wrong – and John’s baptism was about repentance from sins. But in his baptism Jesus identified with us, just as he did at the cross when he died for us. He was not baptised because he needed forgiveness, but out of obedience to God.*

*Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness’. (Matthew 3:15)*

### **The Apostles Taught Baptism**

*At Pentecost, the day the church was born, Peter explained what the crowd needed to do in response to his sermon - all who come to faith should be baptised.*

*Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)*

### **The First Believers were Baptised**

*After Peter’s sermon at Pentecost, 3,000 new Christians were baptised (Acts 2:41). Philip baptised believers in Samaria (Acts 8:38). Paul was baptised after his dramatic conversion (Acts 9:18). Whenever Luke describes someone’s conversion, baptism was sure to follow.*

### **Every Believer was Baptised**

*Baptism is never seen as an optional extra in the New Testament - believer’s baptism was the standard practice.*

*There were five dimensions to Christian initiation: Repentance for past sins, faith in Jesus Christ, receiving the Holy Spirit, believer’s baptism, and joining the church.*

## Believers' Baptism

*Believer's baptism was also a symbolic act and represented several things:*

*It points to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is a sign of our union with Christ.*

*It is also a symbolic bath and a sign of being made clean from sin.*

*It also represents Christ's desire to completely immerse us with his Spirit and is a sign of God's Spirit in us.*

*It is also an indicator that we belong to God's all-inclusive family and is a sign of entering the church.*

*It is a public celebration of faith, declaring to everyone present that we are seeking to follow Christ and is a sign of our faith.*

## Believer's Baptism & Infant Baptism

*As a church, Melton Mowbray Baptist Church, do not baptise infants or perform 'christenings'. This is because we believe that an individual must be able to make promises for themselves – we therefore seek to baptise 'believers'.*

*The main differences between believer's baptism and infant baptism are as follows:*

### **Infant Baptism,**

*is involuntary,  
precedes faith,  
involves a sprinkling,  
anticipates new birth, and  
promises are made on behalf of a child.*

### **Whereas**

### **Believers' Baptism,**

*is voluntary,  
follows faith,  
involves complete immersion,  
celebrates new birth, and  
the believer makes promises.*

*Rev. Dr. Nick Ashton (Minister)  
nick@mmbc.org.uk  
01664 567529*

---

## MELTON MOWBRAY BAPTIST CHURCH

---

Leicester Road,  
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire,  
LE13 0FA

Contact the Church Office:  
01664 480786  
office@mmbc.org.uk  
[www.mmbc.org.uk](http://www.mmbc.org.uk)

 /meltonmowbraybaptistchurch