

## Spiritual How-to's

### How to please the Lord

#### Be water baptized

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#### Intro. What do you do with a dead body? Bury it, right? Why?

- because it begins to smell, 4 minutes after death decomposition begins
- enzymes begin eating cells from the inside out of the body
- trapped gasses build up & are released
- 30 different chemical compounds are released
- over 6 different, putrid, distinct odors are released
- rotting flesh, feces odor, moth ball like smell, rotten eggs, rotting cabbage, & foul garlic-like smell
- The smell of death is nearly impossible to remove or clean
- death reeks!

#### I. When we believe in Jesus as Savior, we are a new creature. The old has gone and the new is come. 2 Cor. 5:17 That old person, Debbie, is dead and gone. She's become and is becoming a brand new person. So, what do we do with that old, dead body?

##### A. We bury it, the old life and we raise to walk in a new life

That burial is called "baptism" and is our topic for today

1. "We are therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life."  
Rom. 6:4
2. Through water baptism we bury the old man and come up out of the water a new man
3. "Baptize" in the NT means to immerse or dip under water and was always immersion under water. Mat. 3:16; The book of Acts, Mark 16:15

##### B. Choosing to follow Jesus and walk in obedience to Him means deciding to get water baptized

1. It is a public statement of your identification with Him Mat. 28:19-20
2. Much like a wedding ring is an outward symbol of a commitment I have made.  
Baptism is a sign of my commitment to Jesus
3. Baptism doesn't make me a believer, it shows that I already am one  
We are saved by grace, through faith. Eph. 2:8-9

##### C. Baptism serves as a symbol of Jesus' burial and resurrection. So our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb and His resurrection from the dead.

1. When we go under the water, it is the burial of our old, smelly, putrefying life and our coming out of that watery tomb as a brand new creature.
2. All those old dead, sin ways are buried & gone!

3. All those sins are washed away and our slate wiped clean. Col. 2:12-14

D. Every person who has believed in Jesus as savior is challenged to be baptized.

1. Acts 2:41 – “those who accepted His word were baptized.”

2. “When they believed the good news, they were baptized. Acts 8:12

3. If you are old enough to accept Jesus as your savior, then you are old enough to be baptized

4. You can be a believer without being baptized

5. By following the example of Jesus & being water baptized (Matthew 4), you will not only bury your smelly dead sin man, but will also be walking in obedience to His voice

**II. What should I do** was the question asked by a crowd to Peter in Acts chapter 2. You may be asking the same question, **“What should I do?”**

A. Repent and be baptized was the answer Acts 2:38

1. Repent simply means to admit that you need God and have blown it (sinned), then ask Him to forgive you and empower you to live His life through you.

2. The baptized part requires action on your part.

a. Find another believer or community of believers

b. share your desire to be water baptized

3. It could be just one other believer, family member or friend

4. This is your public confession, so it needs to be a shared experience, a public action

5. The water part could be any body or type of water. I have experienced baptisms in the ocean, pool, jacuzzi, & even a poured bottle of water

6. What matters is your faith in what is happening to you

7. In Acts 8:36 we read of an Ethiopian official stopping his chariot alongside the road to be baptized in the body of water that was right there.

a. He was ready to be baptized right then and there

b. Philip baptized him right there as they both went down into the water

Acts 8:38

B. If you have never been baptized in water as a believer and your desire is to please the Lord, it probably is time for you to take action & get baptized

C. Carrying that old dead and smelly body of sin around has got to go

D. If that is your desire, go and make it happen, take action, go public

1. There is a new found freedom and strength that comes when you take this step

2. And you can know with a certainty that your heavenly father is pleased

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