



## Why Was Jesus Baptized?

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Some have incorrectly reasoned that baptism cannot be for the remission of sins, because Jesus was baptized and He had no sins?” We read of the account of Jesus coming to John the immerser to be baptized in Matthew 3:13-17. In verse 14, John tried to prevent Him; he “forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?” John recognized the fact that this was the sinless Son of God; however, we can read at the end of verse 15 that John did baptize Jesus. Let us honestly examine this account and see if we can learn why Jesus was baptized.

It is true, that in His life, Jesus **never** committed one single sin (cf. II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:21), thus in His case, it was not to remove any sin. We can determine why He was baptized by looking at the text itself. The answer is found in Matthew 3:15. When John forbad Jesus, Jesus said, “Suffer {or allow} it to be so now: for thus it becometh us **to fulfill all righteousness...**” Jesus was baptized in order to “fulfill all righteousness;” but what does that mean?

Webster defines “fulfill” as, “to do something required; obey.” Allow me illustrate this: if a bucket is completely filled with water, it cannot hold one more drop, then we could say it is filled full or fulfilled. The word “righteousness” is best defined in Psalm 119:172, which says, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.” Therefore, to “fulfill all righteousness” is to obey all the commandments that God has given or required. Jesus’ baptism was to “fulfill all righteousness,” or to obey all God’s commandments. Jesus too was subject to obey God’s command to be baptized, even though He had no sins.

One final thought: It has been suggested that this statement applies only to Jesus because the text says, “fulfill **all** righteousness” and Jesus, who is the only perfect being, is the only one

who could perfectly keep all of God's laws. It is true that Jesus is the only one who can perfectly keep all God's laws; however, the phrase "fulfill all righteousness" does not imply one must perfectly keep all of God's laws without any mistakes. When God gave His law to mankind, He, who knows all things, knew we could not perfectly keep His law. In this context, the idea is that we must obey every commandment that He has given to become a Christian or child of God. If He gave twenty commands, He would expect us to obey all twenty; if five, then we must obey all five.

If you would like to know more about the commandments God has given in His Word, by which you can be washed in the Blood of Christ, which will take away your sins and put you into the church that belongs to Him, or if you would like to enroll in an in-home Bible study or in a **FREE** correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible, 221 Barnett Street, West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: [www.wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org).

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