

WHEN SHOULD BAPTISM BE DONE?

As soon as you have believed! There is no reason to delay.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized...that day." (Acts 2:41)

"Then Philip...told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:35-38)

WHAT ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED TWICE?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion in water since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized.

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

You are asked to share briefly about your journey to faith in Jesus Christ. This will be discussed before the service or baptism event.

WHAT IS THE SERVICE LIKE?

After worship we have an explanation of baptism. When it is your turn to be baptized, you are introduced. You are baptized by one or two persons who have been significant in your spiritual journey. Then you are baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." You are briefly lowered just under the water. During prayer after the baptism, you are encouraged to expect a filling of the Holy Spirit as Jesus experienced after his baptism and as others did in the New Testament.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR BAPTISM

We baptize during our services, at the beach, in the river, etc. Feel free to invite your friends and relatives to celebrate your baptism with you! Video and still photography is appropriate. A schedule of upcoming baptism dates can be obtained by contacting the church office.

Bring a towel and a change of clothing (if desired). We encourage women to wear a dark-colored top with shorts. Men may wear shorts and a plain T-shirt.



Becoming Water Baptized

WATER BAPTISM ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

- ✓ **Because you want to follow Christ's example.**

"At that time Jesus...was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." (Mark 1:9-10)

- ✓ **Because Christ commanded it.**

Jesus said, "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." (Matthew 28:19-20)

- ✓ **Because it shows you are a believer.**

"Many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

- ✓ **Because obeying Christ's command shows you know him.**

"We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands." (1 John 2:3)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- ✓ **It symbolizes Christ's burial and resurrection.**

"Christ died for our sins...he was buried...he was raised." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

You have "been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

- ✓ **It symbolizes your new life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.**

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Your baptism indicates you have received forgiveness through faith in what God has done for you through Jesus Christ. This makes you a disciple. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made to follow Jesus.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

HOW IS BAPTISM DONE?

- ✓ **Like Jesus was baptized: by being immersed in water.**

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water." (Matthew 3:16)

- ✓ **Like the others in the New Testament: by immersion under water.**

"Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...." (Acts 8:38-39)

The word "baptize" literally means "to immerse" or "dip under water." It is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ and follow him needs to be baptized.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized." (Acts 2:41)

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:12)

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ. We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.