

Believer's Baptism

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY CHRIST.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

2. IT IS PART OF CHRIST'S GREAT COMMISSION TO HIS CHURCH

[Jesus said] *"Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matt. 28:19-20*

3. IT IS THE NEW BELIEVER'S FIRST ACT OF OBEDIENCE.

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NASB)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. THROUGH BAPTISM I IDENTIFY WITH CHRIST'S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried... and He rose again." I Cor. 15:3-4

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Col. 2:12

2. BAPTISM IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Cor. 5:17

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!" Rom. 6:4

WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

BAPTISM IS FOR EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED IN CHRIST.

"Those who believed and 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

FAQ's about Baptism

Why do you practice baptism by immersion?

Because it provides a much better visual representation of what is happening spiritually. Spiritual Baptism into Christ involves the death of (crucifixion of) self and being raised to life spiritually. Water baptism is symbolic act celebrating this spiritual experience.

Romans 6:4-10 *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. (5)If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. (6)For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— (7)because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (8)Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9)For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10)The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*

When can I be baptized?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

Acts 2:41 *Those who believed...were baptized...that day.*

Acts 8:35-38 *Then Philip began with the Scriptures and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect" you'll never feel "good enough"!

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Parents, however, need to teach and explain scriptural baptism to their children. If you would like, you may ask your small group leader to go through this with you and your child. If you don't have a small group leader yet, ask for a meeting with one of the church staff.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

Where will I be baptized?

Baptisms are held in the sanctuary baptistery, local pool, or lake.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Sanctuary: Women should wear slacks with a top that will maintain the proper modesty when wet. Men should wear a shirt and slacks. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. You may also want to wear socks. You may change in the back room and then return to the service. Lake or Pool: A swimming suit covered modestly or shorts and t-shirt.

Will I have to say anything?

At the beginning of the service, Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. When you enter the baptistery, you will be asked if you have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. After making affirmation, you will be lowered briefly under the water. (If you would like to give a longer testimony of Christ's work in your life, you may.) After the closing prayer, the people will come by and welcome you into the fellowship. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

Who will baptize me?

Usually it's a person in the church family who has been or will be significant in your spiritual pilgrimage (a small group leader, the person who brought you to Trinity, a parent, etc.).