



## Baptism How To

First Church - Love Jesus. Love Like Jesus.

***So, someone you know wants to be baptized and asked you to do it. That's Awesome!***

It's a humbling experience to participate in someone's baptism. The purpose of this document is to help you understand baptism and understand how to carry out the baptism.

### **PLAN OF SALVATION:**

The biggest question that all of us will have to answer before God is, "What did you believe about Jesus?"

People are always trying to find real happiness. Real happiness comes from understanding my purpose in life.

Our purpose in life is simple. We were created to worship and honor God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the Glory of God."*

### **The Problem with Man and God**

Man has a natural desire to want to control his own life.

1. Man is self-centered. The Bible calls this attitude sin.

- Isaiah 53:6 - "All of us like sheep have gone astray, and each one of us has turned to his own way."

2. Sin separates you from God.

- Isaiah 59:2 - "But your iniquities (sins) have separated you from God."

3. When we are separated from God, it causes problems in every area of our life.

- Proverbs 16:25 - "There are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death."

### **The Solution for Man**

Simply put.... the solution is Jesus.

- John 14:6 - Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

God Himself came to the earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself.

Jesus paid the price for your sin.

- Romans 6:23 - "The wages of sin is death (separation from God), but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- Romans 5:8 - "God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
- 1 Tim. 2:5 (LB) - "God is on one side, and all the people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind."

Sin has destroyed our relationship with God. The only way this could be made right was for His perfect Son to pay the price for us. God has done His part and now He waits for each one of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

### **The Way to Accept Jesus Christ as Your Savior**

The Bible teaches that the pattern to follow to receive Jesus as Savior is to believe in Christ as God's Son and Savior of the world, to repent of personal sin, to confess Christ as Lord, and to be baptized by immersion into Christ.

#### **Believe**

It doesn't stop with just hearing about Jesus. You must believe what you have heard. You must put your faith and trust in Jesus. Believing that He is the Son of God, that He came to earth and lived a sinless life, that He died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven, and that He rose from the grave three days later, and now sits at the right hand of God.

- John 5:24 - "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."
- John 11:25; John 12:46; John 20:31; Romans 1:16; Romans 3:22; Romans 10:9

#### **Confess**

Confession is when you make your belief in Jesus verbal. You publicly tell who Jesus is. This is not a one-time event that happens when you accept Jesus. This is ongoing. Throughout your walk with Jesus you should continue to confess Him before others.

- Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Matthew 10:32; 1 John 2:23; Matthew 16:16; John 1:49; John 11:27

#### **Repent**

Repentance is the first step that requires surrendering yourself. It calls for a change in your life. It's to admit that you are wrong and that you want to do right. You make a 180 degree turn in your life. You turn from living in a life of sin to living a life with Jesus. This is done out of the love in your heart for Jesus and wanting to follow Him.

- Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, 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 3:19 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,
- Acts 17:30; Luke 15:11-32; Mark 1:15

## **Be Baptized**

God calls all believers to be baptized. Baptism is a part of the new birth, which brings us into Christ. The Bible states that we are baptized for the forgiveness of sin and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit promised in baptism causes us to be born again and empowered to live a new life in Christ.

- Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, 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 19:1-5; Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21

## **Why should I be baptized?**

1. Because Christ commanded us to baptize all disciples.
  - Matthew 28:19-20 - "Jesus said, 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...'"
2. Because that was the pattern of the New Testament.
  - Acts 2:38-41 - The very first believers were Jews; the start of the church at Pentecost.
  - Acts 8:5-12 - Philip preaches in Samaria. People respond in faith by being baptized.
  - Acts 8:26-40 - Philip teaches the Ethiopian eunuch who responds by being baptized.
  - Acts 16:15 - The conversion of Lydia and her household.
  - Acts 16:16-34 - Jailer (and his household) respond in faith and are immediately baptized.
  - Acts 18:8 - Crispus, the synagogue ruler.
  - Acts 19:3-5 - Those that had not heard yet of Jesus are baptized
  - Acts 22:16 - Paul's story revisited.

## **What is the meaning of Baptism?**

*Romans 6:3-5*

*"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. If we have been united with Him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection."*

1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.
2. It is your entry into a new life.

## **Why should I be baptized by immersion?**

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.
  - Matthew 3:16 - "As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water."
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.
  - See Acts 8:38-39 (Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch)
3. The word, "baptize" means to "dip under water."
4. Immersion best symbolizes burial and resurrection.

## **WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT BAPTISM:**

Who is doing the work?

- Simply put, God is doing the work! God made the way of salvation through His Son Jesus. God is now continuing the work in the new believer's life as they receive Jesus in baptism. The apostle Paul tells us that we can be *"confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

What if you don't say it right?

- Since God is the one doing the work, it takes the pressure off of you! If you don't say things just right or do something just right, it's ok, God is the one working salvation in the participants life.

Are you really qualified to perform a baptism?

- If you are a baptized believer in Jesus, then YES, you are qualified to baptize others. Actually, you are called to baptize others into Jesus. It's our mission as followers of Jesus to GO and make disciples, other followers of Jesus. (Matthew 28:18-19)

## **HOW TO BAPTIZE:**

Once you believe the person asking to be baptized has a clear understanding of what they are doing and why they are doing it, then it's time for them to take the step of Baptism.

When the Ethiopian eunuch came to an understanding of who Jesus was in Acts 8 his response to Phillip was, "See, here is water! What keeps me from being baptized?" He immediately took that step in his faith.

## **Here are the steps of baptizing someone:**

1. Confirm their faith in Jesus.
2. Find a place with enough water to fully immerse the person wanting to be baptized (a baptistry, pool, bathtub, hot tub, pond, etc.)
3. At the time of baptism go over with the person what is going to take place. Share with them the Confession of Faith and the Baptism Statement (Below).
4. Have them get in the water.

5. Make sure there is room to take them back into the water without hitting their head. You might have them start in a sitting position if it's a small tub or pool.
6. Once they are in the water and ready, have them repeat their Confession of Faith after you.
7. After they repeat their confession, share the Baptism Statement.
8. After the baptism statement, have them pinch their nose, you can hold on to their wrist with one hand while your other hand supports their neck.
9. Take them under the water and then raise them back up. If they are standing, be sure to have them bend their knees as they go down.

### **CONFESSION of FAITH:**

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God  
And, I receive Him now as my Lord and Savior

### **BAPTISM STATEMENT:**

(NAME), because of your confession of faith in Jesus,  
You are now being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
for the forgiveness of your sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Understanding the Baptism Statement:**

***“Because of your confession of faith in Jesus”*** - The participant has just acknowledged their belief in Jesus as they repeated the confession of their faith.

***“You are now being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,”*** - This is taken from Matthew 28:18 where Jesus tells us to baptize new believers “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

***“for the forgiveness of your sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*** - This is taken from Acts 2:38 where Peter states that we are to be baptized “for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

### **Baptism and Children:**

At First Church we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of conversion, before we baptize them. If your child is interested in baptism, feel free to contact one of the Elementary Ministers so we can partner with you and your child throughout this process.