BAPTISM handbook

CHRIST CHURCH



Dear friend,

We at Christ Church are excited to hear that you are interested in a public declaration of your faith in Christ!

Baptism is an outward testimony of your decision to trust

Jesus Christ for your salvation and to follow Him as a believer.

I am excited to hear how God is working in your life. I equally look forward to seeing how God will use His testimony in your life to impact others.

Pastor Dennis Turner christpeople.church/baptism

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing why. They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is "What is the meaning of life?"

Everyone wants to be happy.

People try many ways:

- Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.
- Some look for happiness by gaining prestige & power.

But real happiness comes from understanding my purpose.



BECAUSE GOD LOVES ME!

God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love!" Jeremiah 31:3

"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...Because of His love. God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God's pleasure and purpose." Ephesians 1:4-5

I WAS CREATED FOR A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO ENJOY GOD'S CREATION!

"So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them and said...Live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge." Genesis 1:27-28

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Timothy 6:17

"Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!" John 10:10

WHEN I KNOW & LOVE GOD, & YIELD TO HIS PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE, I BECOME WHO GOD CREATED ME TO BE.

Clear Conscience (Romans 8:1)
Life & Peace (Romans 8:6)

Help with Weakness (Romans 8:26)

Purpose (Romans 8:28)

Confidence (Romans 8:31)

Security (Romans 8:39)

Power & Strength (Philippians 4:13)

Fulfillment (Philippians 4:19)

Freedom (John 8:32, 36)



Man has a natural desire to be the boss and ignore God's principles for living.

- "Look out for #1. Do your own thing."
- "If it feels good, do it regardless of what God says about it."
- "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS SIN.

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

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." 1 John 1:8

WE ARE BORN SEPARATED FROM GOD. IT CAUSES US TO FEAR GOD AND TRY TO LIVE OUTSIDE HIS WILL.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal." Romans 3:23

WHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ISN'T RIGHT, IT CAUSES PROBLEMS IN EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES.

"There are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death." Proverbs 16:25 EVEN WHEN WE KNOW
THAT OUR DEEPEST NEED
IS GOD, WE OFTEN TRY TO
GET TO KNOW HIM THE
WRONG WAY.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

"My mother was a Christian so..."

"It doesn't matter what you believe."

"I'll give up all my bad habits."

"I'll work real hard and earn it."

Jesus Christ said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me!" John 14:6

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

God came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SINS!

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

GOD DID THIS FOR US BECAUSE HE LOVES US!

"God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us". Romans 5:8

"God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind." 1 Timothy 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship with Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.



1. ADMIT THAT GOD HAS NOT BEEN FIRST IN YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9

2. BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS, THAT HE ROSE AGAIN, AND THAT HE IS ALIVE TODAY!

"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

3. ACCEPT GOD'S FREE GIFT - DON'T TRY TO EARN IT.

For it is by grace you are 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

Our relationship with God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. INVITE JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AND BE THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! — Not a physical rebirth...But from the will of God! John 1:12-13

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:36

"Jesus says, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in." Revelation 3:30

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS!

Pray this simple prayer of commitment to God:

Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13





WHY SHOULD I BE 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. Because Christ commands it.

"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." Matthew 28:19-20 For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ, Colossians 2:12

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer

"Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands."

1. John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... And He rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

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

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... And He rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"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!"

Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer — it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

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

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

[Example] "Then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39

3. The word 'baptize' means to dip under water.

The Greek word baptizo means, "to immerse or dip under water."

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who believes in Jesus Christ!

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized." Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized." Acts 8:13

"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

At Christ Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you believe!

"Those who believed...Were baptized... That day!" Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the scripture 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." Acts 8:35-38

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!"

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

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.

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.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I'M BAPTIZED?

Women: Dark t-shirt and dark shorts over swimsuit **Men:** Dark t-shirt and shorts or swim trunks.

Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. At the beginning of the service, the pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the baptistery for your turn to be baptized. Whoever is performing your baptism will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the baptistery, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism.

SO NOW WHAT?

When you are ready to schedule your baptism, there are a couple of ways to register! You can call 316.733.7011 or email admin@christpeople.church. You can talk to a pastor here at Christ Church, or talk to one of our other staff members. You can also head on over to our website and fill out the form there: christpeople.church/baptism.

Baptisms typically fall on the third Sunday of every month, with the registration deadline on the **first** of that month. Check our events calendar for any changes.

We ask that you share your testimony in a video prior to your baptism. The final, edited video will be no longer than 2 minutes. In order to help organize your thoughts, think through the following questions prior to your video appointment:

- 1. How and when did you accept Christ as your Savior?
- 2. Who is Jesus to you?
- 3. How has he changed your life?
- 4. Why do you want to be baptized?

We recommend that you write this out so you know what you want to say. Your video will then be posted on our social media accounts prior to your baptism.

We are SO excited for you! If you have any questions, let us know!



