

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

*"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"!

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. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Minister of Children for a pre-baptism conversation.

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 AM BAPTIZED?

Women should wear shorts and a top rather than a swimsuit. Men may wear a swimsuit. 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 one of our pastors will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. One of our pastors will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

SPECIAL NEEDS?

All of our Pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

Scheduled **date** of my baptism

Scheduled **time** for my baptism

Scheduled **place** of my baptism

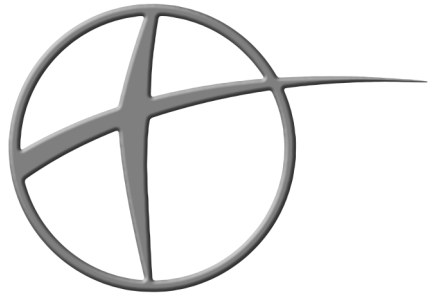
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BAPTISM BROCHURE

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A community of
Faith, Hope and Love



WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- **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

- **BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT**

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people every-where 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

- **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?

- **IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S DEATH, BURIAL AND RESSURECTION**

"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

- **IT ILLUSTRATES MY NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN**

"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 Corinthians 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!**" 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?

- **BECAUSE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY**

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

- **EVERY BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE WAS BY IMMERSION**

(Example) "...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip bap-tized him. When they came up out of the water..."
Acts 8:38-39

- **THE WORD "BAPTIZE" MEANS TO "DIP UNDERWATER"**

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

- **IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!**

The founders of denominations agree...

Martin Luther..."I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin..."The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the Ancient church."

John Wesley..."Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."