

APPLICATION FOR BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Anchor Bible Church

Anchor Bible Church Practices Believer's Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance of the Church instituted by Jesus for believers who have repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Believers are required to be baptized after being born again by grace (Acts 2:38; 8:12-13). Baptism is a biblically prescribed ordinance. In baptism a person publicly proclaims their desire to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and to be united with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:2-7). Believers are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by immersion (Mt. 28:19-20). Going under the water symbolizes a believer's union with Christ's death and burial, while coming up out of the water symbolizes their union with Christ's resurrection from the dead to live a new life of obedience out of love for the Lord.

Believer's baptism by immersion is not a means of grace or salvation. Baptism is a necessary act of obedience to Jesus' command. Everyone interested in becoming a member of Anchor Bible Church must first be publicly baptized as a believer by immersion. We encourage those interested in being baptized to listen to the sermon ["You And Baptism"](#).

Requirements For Being Baptized At Anchor Bible Church

1. Anchor Bible Church exercises caution when baptizing children. Parental consent is required. Minors must meet the same criteria for being baptized as adults. Parents are asked to carefully evaluate their child's knowledge of the gospel, what it means to be baptized, and to look for external evidence in their child of being born again by grace e.g., a hunger to know God, to obey the Word of God, to serve the Lord, to worship with God's people, sorrow over sin, etc.
2. You must be a born-again by God's grace (Jn. 3:1-7) having placed your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13) so that you are changed by God's grace into a new creature in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).
3. You must public profess your faith in Jesus Christ and desire to follow Him as your Lord and Savior when you are baptized.
4. You must be able to see outward manifestations of God's saving grace working in your life (Rom. 6:4; II Cor. 5:17).
5. You must meet with a pastor/elder or a representative appointed by the elders to verbally discuss your conversion to Jesus Christ, your understanding of the gospel, the change in your life that has resulted from being regenerated, and your desire to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

6. You must write out a brief testimony (about 5 minutes), describing how you came to saving faith in Jesus Christ that you can read aloud to the church at your baptism. Your written testimony must be reviewed approved by a pastor, elder, deacon, or shepherding group leader. In your testimony, please include:
 - a. The circumstances that led to you coming to faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please be sensitive when describing your life of sin before coming to faith in Jesus Christ, so as not to defile anyone's conscience.
 - b. Describe what changes have taken place in your life since believing in the gospel and being born again.
 - c. Feel free to include key Scriptures in your testimony that the Lord used to bring you to salvation.
 - d. End your testimony stating why you want to participate in believer's baptism.
7. You must coordinate with Anchor Bible Church as to when you can be baptized. Usually this will take place during a New Member's Church Service or event.
8. On the day of your baptism, you must show up prepared with:
 - a. Clothing you can get baptized in. Please wear dark colored, modest clothing.
 - b. Your testimony neatly written or printed out, divided into smaller paragraphs, and with larger font so that is easy to read. Try to keep your testimony to one to two pages (about 5 minutes).
 - c. Bring a couple of towels to dry off with after being baptized.
9. On the day of your baptism, a pastor, elder, or deacon will meet with you, pray with you, and give you specific instructions about being baptized.
10. When it is time to be baptized, you will go before the church with the person baptizing you. The person baptizing you will say a few words and give you an opportunity to read your testimony to those present. You will be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
11. After being baptized you will be taken to a place where you can dry off and change.
12. Anchor Bible Church will prepare a baptism certificate for you, verifying that you have been baptized.

Checklist for pastor/elder or their appointed representative's use.

- Baptism Candidate's Name: _____ Date: _____
- You met with the baptism candidate and are reasonably sure they know the gospel well enough to be saved, have a valid profession of faith, and have external manifestations of God's saving grace working in their life.
- You have taken the baptism candidate through this document.
- You have read and, if necessary, assisted the baptism candidate in writing out their testimony to read before the church.

Pastor, Elder, or their appointed representative:

Name (Printed) _____ Signature _____

Date: _____

(This document will be archived at Anchor Bible Church for future reference.)