



BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Anchor Bible Church Practices Believer's Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance of the Church instituted by Jesus for those who have repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. All believers are required to be baptized as soon as reasonably possible after believing and being born again (Acts 2:38; 8:12-13). Baptism is a symbolic act, publicly proclaiming a believer's desire to follow and be united with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:2-7). The Bible requires that all believers be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by immersion or dunking completely under water (Mt. 28:19-20). When the believer is immersed in water it symbolizes their union with Christ's death and burial, and when they are lifted up out of the water, it represents their union with Christ being raised from the dead.

Believer's baptism by immersion is not a means of salvation, yet it is a necessary act of obedience after salvation. Believer's baptism does not impart to the believer any special blessing other than the blessing that comes to all believers when they obey the Lord.

Requirements For Baptism 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 and to look for evidence of their child being born again by grace through faith in Jesus Christ before asking that their child be baptized. God's saving grace changes us from the inside out. It is for that reason that we ask parents to patiently examine their child's life for evidence of salvation, such as a hunger for and desire to obey God's Word, a desire to serve the Lord and others, a desire to be with God's people, a tenderness and sorrow over sin, etc.
2. You must be a born again believer (Jn. 3:1-7) having placed your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13) so that you are a new creature in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).
3. You must desire to obey the Lord's command to participate in believer's baptism as a public profession of your faith and desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. You must have some outward manifestations of a person who has been born again by grace and then explain some of the ways God has changed you during your baptism interview.
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 your testimony to read aloud at your baptism before the church. Your written testimony must be approved by a pastor/elder or one appointed by them. 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 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 printed out, divided into smaller paragraphs, and with a font that is large enough to read easily. You may want to put it in a plastic sleeve so it doesn't get wet. Try to keep your testimony to one page (about 5 minutes).
 - c. A couple of towels to dry off with after being baptized.
9. On the day of your baptism a pastor/elder or their representative 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 along with the pastor/elder who is going to baptize you. He will say a few words and give you an opportunity to read your testimony before Anchor Bible Church. You will then follow the pastor/elder's instructions and he will baptize you 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 and have a valid profession of faith.
- 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: _____ (To be filed at Anchor Bible Church for future reference)