

# Water Baptism

A Guide to Assist You

## Why Should I be Baptized?

1. Because you want to follow Jesus' example.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9)

2. Because Christ commanded it. "Jesus said... 'baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...'"

(Matthew 28:19-20)

3. Because it shows you are a believer. "...many of the Corinthians who heard Him believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

4. Because obeying Christ's command shows that you know Him.

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands" (1 John 2:3)

## What Does it Mean?

1. It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection.

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

2. It is a symbol of your 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 we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead also we might live a new life!:

(Romans 6:4)

## How Should I be Baptized?

While we respect other traditions, we choose to baptize by immersion in water based on the following:

1. Jesus seems to have been immersed in water at His baptism.

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

2. Other Biblical examples of baptism seem to have been by immersion under water.

(Example) "...then both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water and Phillip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39)

3. The word "baptize" literally means "to immerse or dip under water." The Greek word is "baptizo"

4. It is the best way to symbolize a burial and resurrection.

## Who Should be Baptized?

1. Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ.

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

"But when they believed Phillip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:12)

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

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ. We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

### When Should I do It?

After you have placed faith in Christ. There is no need to delay.

“Those who believed... were baptized...that day.” (Acts 2:41) “As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water.

### Why shouldn't I be baptized?” (Acts 8:36)

Because baptism is one of the great privileges of being a Christian, there is no reason to delay it. As soon as a person places faith in Christ, he or she should commit to be baptized.

### What Baptism is Not...

1. A means of obtaining Salvation “For it is by grace you have been 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)

### Can I be Baptized Twice?

We recommend that you be baptized only once after fully understanding the significance of its meaning. However, if you have been baptized in a non- Christian faith or in a way that you feel was unbiblical - or you simply realize that you did not understand baptism properly in your previous experience, please speak to a pastor about the possibility of being baptized again.

### Can My Family Do It Together?

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has placed personal faith in Christ as their Savior, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a beautiful expression of unified commitment to Jesus.

### Disqualification:

Unrepentant sin, Unbelief, Rejection of Christ lordship.

1Cor 6:9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

### TIPS FOR YOUR BAPTISM:

We are so thrilled that you desire to follow the Lord's example in baptism. There will probably be others baptized at the same time as you. Many people like yourself have been baptized by our pastors.

1. Bring a towel and hair dryer (if desired). We encourage all to wear dark colored modest clothes. Men should wear shorts and a T-Shirt.
2. The pastor(s) will be baptizing one person at a time.
3. Don't be surprised when people clap at your baptism. It is a joyful experience for every Christian when someone is baptized publically.