

NOW WHAT?

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have decided to trust Jesus, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you will never feel “good enough” (Acts 2:41).

HOW CAN I REQUEST TO BE BAPTIZED?

- Come by the Welcome Center and let them know you would like to speak with someone about baptism.
- Come forward during a worship service when the pastor invites people to respond. You can come forward to a person standing at the front and tell them, “I want to be baptized.”
- Call the church office at 615.754.2525 and request to receive baptism. Someone from our church office will follow up with you to arrange a conversation with one of our pastors and to set the Sunday and the service you will be baptized in.

WHAT DO I DO ON THE SUNDAY I AM BAPTIZED AND WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

- Please arrive 15 minutes before the worship service starts and meet in the church office (ADM 201, near the north entrance of the Worship Center).
- Bring something to wear under your robe (you could wear shorts and t-shirt or a bathing suit) and any extra clothes you may need.
- Bring a towel and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.
- We have extra towels and hair dryers available.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING OR MEMORIZE ANYTHING?

When you come down into the baptismal pool, the person baptizing you will introduce you then ask you questions like, “Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?” “Do you believe that He died on the cross for your sin?” “Do you believe that He was raised to life on the third day?” “Are you personally trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior?” You will simply answer, “yes” to each question.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE ACTUAL BAPTISM?

After you have said “yes,” the person baptizing you will then say, “Based on your profession of faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” You will hold your nose closed with your hand and the person baptizing you will usually put one hand on the middle of your back, and one hand on the wrist you are using to hold your nose. As they lower you into the water, please bend your knees. As you are being dunked under the water, the person baptizing you will say, “buried with Jesus in the likeness of His death, and raised with Jesus to live a new life.” The congregation will celebrate with applause and you will walk to the side to get changed and come back to the worship service.

BAPTISM FAQS



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WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is your public identification with Jesus Christ when you are dipped under the water. It symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It also symbolizes a death to your old life and your being raised by Jesus Christ to a new life in Him. You are baptized after you have trusted Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

We baptize by immersion, which means that we baptize by putting someone under the water and bringing them up again.

WHY IMMERSION AND NOT SPRINKLING OR POURING?

1. The word “baptize” means to plunge, dip, or immerse. The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The Greek word for baptism is baptizo. The literal meaning of baptizo is to plunge, dip, or immerse.

2. The examples of baptism in the New Testament are by immersion. For example, when Jesus was baptized, “He came up out of the water” (Mark 1:10). When Phillip baptized a man from Ethiopia, they both “went down into the water” and “came up out of the water” (Acts 8:38-39).

3. Immersion best demonstrates being buried with Christ and raised to new life. In Romans 6:3-4, Paul teaches that baptism is a symbolic picture that represents a spiritual truth, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible teaches that only those who have personally professed faith in Jesus are to be baptized. We often call this believer’s baptism, meaning that once you become a believer, then you are baptized.

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

Infant baptism is the practice in some churches of sprinkling or pouring water over babies who are brought by their parents to be “baptized.” This may powerfully demonstrate the parents’ desire to see their children come to know Christ or even be an expression of their dedication to raising their children to come to know Christ. It, however, has no precedent in the Bible and is not a “believer’s baptism.” If you were baptized as an infant, we invite you to receive believer’s baptism here

WHAT ABOUT MY CHILD (ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT)?

If your elementary-age child has questions about baptism, please call our church office and ask to meet with our director of Children’s Ministries. If your middle or high school student has questions about baptism, please call our church office and ask to meet with our student pastor.

DOES MY BAPTISM “SAVE ME” OR “MAKE ME A CHRISTIAN”?

Absolutely not. Being baptized is not the same thing as believing the gospel and being saved. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesian church says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Salvation is the gracious gift of God, which means you don’t do anything to earn it, including being baptized. You receive it by faith. God’s grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone, saves you. There is nothing you can do to add to the work of Jesus.

Water baptism is a symbolic representation of the spiritual reality of salvation. It does not save you. It is a visible picture of what God does spiritually when He saves you by His grace.



5 REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

1 BAPTISM IS OBEDIENCE TO JESUS’ COMMAND. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

2 BAPTISM IS FOLLOWING JESUS’ EXAMPLE. Jesus Himself was baptized in submission to the Father’s will (Matthew 3:13-15), as an example for us, and as an identification with us. We are submitting to Him and following His example when we are baptized.

3 BAPTISM IS PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS. Just as Jesus identified with us in His baptism, we publicly identify with Jesus when we are baptized (Matthew 10:32-33). Baptism is your first opportunity to publicly demonstrate that you trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

4 BAPTISM IS SYMBOLIC OF OUR SPIRITUAL DEATH AND NEW LIFE IN JESUS. Baptism is an outward, external, physical expression of the inward, internal, spiritual reality that has already taken place by faith (Romans 6:3-4). We have died to sin and self. We have been crucified with Christ and buried with Him. And now, by faith, Christ has come to live in us, and because He was resurrected, we have been raised to live a new life in Him. Baptism is a picture, a symbol, a metaphor, and an illustration of that truth.

5 BAPTISM DECLARES THE GOSPEL OF JESUS. When you are baptized, you are “preaching” or declaring the gospel (the good news about Jesus) by your actions. When you go under the water, you are declaring, “I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sin.” When you come up out of the water, you are declaring, “I believe that Jesus rose from the grave.” You are also declaring that Jesus has buried your old life and raised you to a new life in Him by His grace (as a gift) and for His glory.