

WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

- The Bible does not set a precedent—it was always “Believer’s Baptism.”
- There are examples of presenting children to the Lord—1 Samuel 1:26-28; Luke 2:21-40.
- We practice child “dedication”.
- We believe this should be public, a testimony to the community, a commitment of the family, a joyful experience and acceptance by the church.

HOW TO BE READY FOR WATER BAPTISM

- Be spiritually ready by your commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Have a brief testimony of your trust in Jesus—it will help to write out a few sentences with this. The Pastor will help communicate this—you will not be embarrassed.
- All are to wear a bathing suit “underneath” and a dress or slacks with a top for ladies, pants and a shirt for men.
- Bring a towel and a change of clothes.

THE BEAUTIFUL SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM, ROMANS 6:1-5

- Your going under the water (immersion) symbolizes death to self and sin.
- Your coming out of the water symbolizes resurrection—new life!
- Your baptism is an outward expression of the inward work—of being “born again”—death to the old nature; alive in Jesus Christ—forever! Amen!

If you would like to be baptized, please complete this form and return it to the church office.

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME (as you want it to appear on the certificate): _____

PHONE NUMBERS:

Home: _____

Work: _____

Mobile: _____

ADDRESS:

CITY:

ZIP:



**Understanding
Baptism**

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UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM

Baptism is a beautiful step in the life of a Christian and is taken in response to the direct command of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19. It is significant and exciting for a Believer to obey the Lord.

WHY THIS COMMAND WAS GIVEN

- It is an act of obedience—one of the keys to the effective Christian life.
- It is a witness to others—for the Believer is taking a stand with Christ and His Church.
- It is to meet a need—for an expression of the faith of the Believer.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND

- Baptism is not necessary for a person to become a Christian—to be “saved.”
- Salvation is the result of receiving Jesus Christ. Acts 16:31.
- Baptism, in the Bible, always followed salvation. Acts 10:44-48.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- It is the symbolic expression of the Believer’s coming “in” to Jesus Christ and of “participation” in His death and resurrection. Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:11-12.
- It is a witness of “spiritual baptism” through a “physical baptism.” In the spiritual baptism God identifies with us; in the physical baptism we identify with God.

- It is a public witness of a private, personal work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 8:9.

HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

- There are many different methods used—sprinkling, pouring, dunking, silent, immersing. Variations came from necessity or belief.
- The Biblical examples of baptism are where there was an abundance of water, usually a river or other public places. Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 8:26-40.
- There has been much controversy over the “how” of baptism. As a community / interdenominational church, we believe the motive is more significant than the mode and consider the form of baptism on circumstances and background—though immersion is the preferred and emphasized method.

WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

- In the early church it was usually immediate. Acts 8:38-39; 16:31-34.
- It is always to be a “Believer’s Baptism”—following conversion, the receiving of Jesus Christ. We are not baptized to be saved but because we have been saved. Romans 10:9-10.
- It is when a person is ready to make a public statement, witness of their faith in Christ’s atoning work on the Cross.
- It is to be an open commitment to Christ and to His Church—identifying as a Christian. It is never to be taken lightly or without understanding.
- It should be as public as possible—not secret but very open, inviting family and friends to attend. It is a time for a witness to others of faith in Christ.
- The person should have an understanding of the meaning and responsibility of living a Christian life.
- The Bible does not set an age when a person should be baptized. We ask parents to approve the baptism of children—that they are “ready”.