

# What the Bible teaches about



## The Importance of being baptized

### I. What is the meaning of baptism?

#### 1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

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

*"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."*

Romans 6:4-5

#### 2. It illustrates my 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

#### 3. Baptism is a call to unity within the church.

*"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free ... "*  
1 Corinthians 12:13

### II. Why should I be baptized?

#### 1. To follow the example set by Jesus.

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

#### 2. Because Christ commands it.

*"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'"*  
Matthew 28:19-20a

#### 3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

*"... many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized."*  
Acts 18:8b

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

### III. Who should be baptized?

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

*"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized."*  
Acts 2:41a

*"But when they believed Philip 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 8:13a

### IV. When should I be baptized?

#### As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay.

*"Those who believed ... were baptized ... that day!"* Acts 2:41

*"Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. 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 right now?' Philip said, 'if you believe with all your heart, you may.' The official answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."* Acts 8:36-38 (paraphrase)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person decides to believe in and follow Jesus Christ, he or she can and should be baptized.



# Instructions for your baptism

Note: Baptism is a symbol of a deeper reality of our belonging to Christ. We are not saved by baptism. Only faith in Jesus Christ saves (Ephesians 2:4-10). It is like a wedding ring, the symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

## What about being baptized twice?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you were not baptized by personally placing your trust in Christ for salvation. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized through your own personal relationship with Jesus.

## Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

*God blesses you as you  
demonstrate your faith in Christ!*

We are so happy that you desire to follow the Lord's example in baptism. There will probably be others baptized with you.

## What to expect:

1. Baptisms are held at the church. Your baptism will be broadcast on our big screens and live on the Internet so all your friends and relatives can see it as it happens. Additional baptism dates will be announced in the worship bulletin and monthly newsletter, or you can call the church office at (765) 529-2687.

2. Towels and hair dryers will be provided. We encourage women (and girls) to wear a swim suit, with shorts and a top over the swim suit. Men (and boys) may wear a swim suit and a plain T-shirt. You will be able to change clothes in our private changing areas behind the baptismal pool.

3. Please plan on arriving at 10 a.m. on the Sunday of your baptism. The pastor meets with all people being baptized for a word of prayer and final instructions at the front of the Worship Center. Thank you for being on time.

4. The pastor will be baptizing one person at a time.

5. Don't be surprised when people clap at your baptism. It is a happy experience for every Christian when someone publicly identifies himself or herself as a believer by being baptized.

6. You will be given a baptism certificate on the day of your baptism.

