



Water Baptism

According to the New Testament

Why be Baptized?

1. You want to follow Christ's example. "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9
2. Christ commanded 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 28:19-20
3. The early church practiced it. "... many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8
4. Obeying Christ's commands shows that you know Him. "We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." 1 John 2:3

The Meaning of Baptism

1. It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. "Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Colossians 2:12

2. It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. "When someone becomes a Christian s/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 then 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 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

How are we to be Baptized?

1. Like Jesus was Baptized — by being fully immersed in water. "As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16
2. Every Baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. For example, "... then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ... " Acts 8:38-39



3. The word 'Baptize' comes from the Greek word 'Baptizo', which means to immerse or dip under water."

4. Full immersion — it is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection.
5. The founders of denominations agree on full immersion:

Martin Luther "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the Word imports and the mystery signifies.

John Calvin "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.

Who should be Baptized?

Every person who has made a decision to believe in Christ.

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

"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 8:13

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

When are we to 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 9:36-39 (paraphrase)



There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, s/he can and should be Baptized.

Can you be Baptized Twice?

If you have not been baptized by immersion since becoming a believer, our church recommends that you be baptized again. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was Baptized. Every voting member at The Gathering has been baptized by immersion as Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to follow.

Can we be Baptized together?

Yes! If you are related and each family member understands fully the meaning of Baptism and has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be Baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

Will I have to say anything?

At the beginning of the Baptism service, the pastor will briefly explain the meaning of Baptism. Following that, the pastor will ask you to line up by the pool. As you stand in the water before you are Baptized, the pastor will ask you a few questions: How did you end up coming to The Gathering? When did you make a decision to believe in Jesus as your Saviour and Lord? What does Jesus mean to you? What does this Baptism signify to you? The pastor will briefly lower you under the water and raise you from the water. Then you will dry off and watch the others being Baptized. We are so happy that you desire to follow the Lord's example in Baptism.

BAPTISM APPLICATION

Name: _____
Email: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____

Do you believe Jesus died for your sins and rose again to give you new and eternal life?

- Yes
 No

Do you believe Jesus is God and the Lord of your life?

- Yes
 No

Are you striving to live your life in a Christ honouring way according to the Bible?

- Yes
 No

Have you been Water Baptized before by full immersion?

- Yes
 No

Describe how you came to make Jesus Saviour and Lord.

What does Jesus mean to you?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISM

1. Submit application to the pastor.
2. An interview will be required.
3. Upon acceptance, a date will be chosen.
4. Invite family and friends to celebrate with you and take pictures.
5. Bring a swimsuit and a t-shirt to wear over top. Also bring a towel and a change of clothes.
6. The pastor will be baptizing people one at a time and asking each one to give a brief Jesus honouring testimony.
7. Do not be surprised if people clap at your Baptism. It is a happy experience for every Christian when someone publically identifies him/herself as a believer by being Baptized.

CONTACT US

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THE GATHERING

WATER BAPTISM