

Canvas Water Baptism: Meaning And Process

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

1. **Because you want to follow Jesus' example.** One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. Mark 1:9.
2. **Because Jesus commanded it.** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19–20).
3. **Because it shows you are a believer.** Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized. (Acts 18:8).
4. **Because obeying Christ's command shows you know Him.** And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. (1 John 2:3).

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

1. **It is a symbol of Jesus' burial and resurrection.** "Christ died for our sins . . . he was buried . . . and he rose again." (1 Corinthians. 15:3, 4) For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. (Colossians 2:12).
2. **It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian.** "When someone becomes a Christian, they become a brand new person inside. The new Christian is not the same anymore. 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 death . . . also we might live a new life." Romans 6:4.

Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

1. As Jesus was baptized — by being immersed in water. After his baptism, as "Jesus came up out of the water" (Matthew 3:16).
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. (Example) "...they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. they came up out of the water...went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:38, 39).
3. The word "Baptize" literally means "to immerse or dip under water."
4. It is the best way to picture death, burial and resurrection.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED? Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ should be baptized. “ Those who 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). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

CAN MY CHILD BE BAPTIZED? Yes! We strongly encourage children in grades 3-5 to meet with our Kid’s Pastor to discuss salvation and baptism. We have designed a baptism booklet for parents and their kids to read and discuss what baptism is, why we do it and what it means in an age appropriate way. You can pick one up either in the Canvas Kids lobby or at the Info Station in the main lobby. Your child will have an opportunity for an age appropriate conversation with one of our Canvas Kids Team leaders before being baptized. Please contact Canvas Kids for more information at **(406) 752-6426. Ext. 214**

CAN A FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER? Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It enhances the experience and encourages other families who have yet to take that public step in their faith.

WHAT ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED TWICE? You may have been baptized as an infant or young child. Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn’t devalue a prior experience, but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING? Nope! We will gather as a group prior to your baptism, and there you’ll be able to ask any questions you have. But on stage or out front, no, you don’t have to say anything.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR BAPTISM

- 1.** When you sign up for baptism, you will receive an email from our baptism team confirming your baptism date and time, when to arrive, what to bring.
- 2.** Please bring with you shorts or leggings in which to be baptized and dry clothes to change into. We provide a tee shirt to wear, which you get to keep!
- 3.** One of our pastors will explain the meaning of baptism and how you will be baptized.
- 4.** The pastor will be baptizing one person at a time, but families can enter the pool together if they like. Please let us know if you would like to be baptized together with your family members.
- 5.** Don’t be surprised when you see people clap and cheer at your baptism! It is a celebratory experience for every Christian when someone publicly identifies him/herself as a believer by being baptized. It also serves as a witness to those who have yet come to know Christ.