

BAPTISM



RAISED TO NEW LIFE

We are so excited that you are considering baptism at Family Life.

Baptism is an important next step of obedience that shows others you are trusting Jesus for your salvation.

Jesus was baptized when He was on the earth, and we are baptized to follow His example.

When a follower of Jesus is baptized, they are submerged under water to identify with the death and burial of Jesus and raised out of the water to identify with His resurrection.

We believe that water baptism is a public declaration of three important things:

- You are a follower of Jesus.
- You are beginning a changed life with Christ.
- You are now part of God's family.

This guide will help answer some common questions about baptism and includes a devotional specifically about baptism and following Jesus.

Please reach out to us if you have additional questions or would like more information about baptism at Family Life.

Phone: 360.293.2219

Email: Office@flachurch.org

Online: www.flachurch.org/baptism

Questions About Baptism

01 | Why should I be baptized?

Those who are baptized are following Jesus' example and obeying His command.

Take a moment to read about Jesus baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ 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

02 | What is the significance of baptism?

Water baptism is a public declaration of three very important things:

- **You are a follower of Jesus.**

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. - Acts 2:38

- **You are beginning a changed life with Christ.**

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. - Romans 6:4

- **You are now part of God's family.**

²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. - Galatians 3:26-27

03 | I have already been baptized. Should I be baptized again?

Your baptism should have signified you becoming a follower of Jesus, beginning a changed life, and uniting with God's family. If your baptism did not reflect this change of life, then you should be baptized again.

04 | Can my child be baptized?

We will baptize anyone over the age of 7, who understands what baptism symbolizes and wants to make that public declaration of faith. We encourage any parent to partner with our Family Life Kids and Youth ministries to guide your children through these decisions of faith.

For more information to help guide your child through this important decision, check out our Children's Guide for Water Baptism available in the lobby at the Parent Resources or online at www.flachurch.org/baptism.

05 | Can my infant be baptized?

Throughout the New Testament, the Bible teaches that baptism is a public expression of faith that symbolizes the new life we have as followers of Jesus. What we do see in the Bible is Jesus' parents dedicating him to the Lord, and then being baptized later as an adult. We encourage you to take a moment to read in your Bible about each of these accounts. Jesus' dedication by his parents is found in Luke 2:22-40 and the account of His baptism is found in Matthew 3:13-17.

We do understand that some churches practice "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a commitment between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his or her own personal confession of Christ. This practice began about 300 years after the Bible was completed and is different from the biblical examples of new followers of Jesus being baptized to publicly profess their faith in Jesus.

Water Baptism Devotional

Obeying Jesus' Command

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ 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

Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A follower of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He does. The number one reason you should be water baptized is because Jesus did and He told us to be baptized as well.

When you become a follower of Jesus, you are brought into God's family and His kingdom and Jesus is Lord over everything. This means you have decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example in life. Jesus was water baptized, so we should be too. Take a moment to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

An Outward Picture

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

Water baptism is an outward expression of what Jesus has done for you in your heart and soul. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you chose to follow Jesus, there was a death, burial, and resurrection that happened in your spirit as you prayed, confessed your sins, and put your faith in Jesus.

This is why when you are baptized, you go all the way under the water. You are showing people that your old way of living and all your past sins are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside of your heart.

A Decision of Faith

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. - Romans 6:4

Water baptism does not save you from your sins. It has no purpose or meaning until after a person has decided to follow Jesus. But water baptism is a very important step in your new life as a follower of Jesus.

When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him for the rest of your life. You are choosing to let Jesus and your new, born-again spirit be in charge of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow Jesus.

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