



WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commands it

Jesus said, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt. 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer

“...many of the Corinthians who heard him *believed* and were *baptized*.” Acts 18:8 “We know that we have come to know Him if we *obey* His commands.” 1 John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ’s death and resurrection

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He was raised on the third day.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4

“...having been *buried* with Him in baptism and *raised* with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.” Col. 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Cor. 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer— it shows that you **already believe**. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding— it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, *through faith* — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matt. 3:16

2. Every baptism in the bible was by immersion.

(*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” means to dip under water.

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water.”

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED IN CHRIST!

*“Those who accepted his message were **baptized**...”* Acts 2:41

At First Baptist Church, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice a *“baptism of confirmation”* for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant 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 own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the bible was completed. **This is different from baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those old enough to personally believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At First Baptist Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, as a first act of obedience in following the Lord (Matt. 28:19).

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

*“Those who accepted his message were baptized...**that day!**”* Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with that very passage of 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?’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you will never feel “good enough”!

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER? WHAT ABOUT YOUNGER CHILDREN?

If each member understands fully the meaning of baptism and has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we are happy for family members to be baptized at the same time. In regards to younger children, we generally encourage parents to wait until children are in or approaching their teen years before being baptized. This is to help ensure that baptism is fully understood by them as a personal statement of their faith, and not just based on the faith or the wishes of their parents.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Women should wear shorts and a top, or if you prefer, a darker color “muumuu” style dress over a modest swimsuit. Please be mindful of the effects on clothing and undergarments when wet. Men may wear shorts or a swimsuit, and typically a darker T-shirt. Avoid branded or large logoed tops that may be a distraction. Remember to bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

Please ensure you bring your change of clothes with you to church, as we will immediately head to Smith’s Cove following the close of the morning service.

3. WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING PUBLICLY IN ORDER TO BE BAPTIZED ?

Since baptism is a public profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, it is our practice to have baptism candidates join one of our pastors on stage at the end of our church service and briefly share their personal testimony and stated desire to be baptized. One of our pastors will be happy to help you with this testimony preparation beforehand. The church service will conclude, and the pastor will invite everyone to join us at Smith Cove immediately following the service. At Smith Cove, we will sing a couple of hymns, pray for our baptism candidates, and you will wade into the water together with the others being baptized. The Pastor will introduce you, ask you to affirm your profession of faith, and gently lower you just below the surface of the water. You will then stand in the water while the others are baptized. You will all come out of the water together. We encourage you to invite all your friends and relatives to share in the joy of this truly significant event!