



BAPTISM

Packet

**Preparation for Entering Into
The Christian Fellowship of Baptism**

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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.

And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.”

What is Baptism?

Baptism is an external expression of your inward appeal to God to wash your sins away, uniting you by faith with Jesus Christ's death and burial of the flesh and His resurrection to new life by the powerful working of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:11-12

In him [in Christ] also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him **through faith** in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Romans 6:3-4

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk in newness of life.**

Acts 22:16

(Ananias speaking to Saul)

“And now what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, **calling on his name.**”

1 Peter 3:21

...and this water [the flood waters of Noah's day] symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of the dirt from the body, but **the pledge of a good conscience toward God.**

Acts 2:38-41

³⁷ Now when they heard this **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “**Repent** and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...
...⁴¹ So **those who received his word** were baptized...

What is Baptism NOT?

It is NOT the means of justification before God;
justification comes by faith.

Romans 3:28

We hold that one is **justified by faith** apart from works of the law.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God.

Romans 4:3,5

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ...To the one who does not work but **believes** in him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith** is counted as righteousness.

John 3:16

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 6:28-29

Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you **believe** in him whom he has sent.”

Acts 13:38-39

“Through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who **believes** is freed [or justified] from everything from which you could not be [justified] by the law of Moses.”

Mark 16:15-16

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever **believes and is baptized** will be saved, but whoever **does not believe** will be condemned.

Baptism, therefore, does not *precede* or *substitute* faith in God but is an obedient **expression** of one's faith.

WHEN and WHY should someone get Baptized?

When:

As soon as someone believes in Christ (accepts the Gospel) they should be baptized or make plans to do so. Baptism occurs in Scripture soon after faith/belief (acceptance of the Gospel) is expressed by a person.

Acts 16:30-34

³⁰ Then he [the Philippian Jailer] brought them [Paul and Silas] out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; **and he was baptized at once**, he and all his family.

Acts 18:8

⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul **believed and were baptized**.

Acts 2:38,41

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...” ⁴¹ So **those who received his word were baptized**...

Why:

- 1.** Because you want to experience the full measure of the Holy Spirit, walking in newness of life with Him, and identifying with Christ in His baptism.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, **and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...**

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and **he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;** ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

John 3:4-6

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Romans 6:3-4

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk in newness of life.**

2. Because you desire to turn away from sin (repent) and walk as a disciple of Jesus in obedience to God as your new master.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 1:4-8

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming **a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, **confessing their sins**. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

1 John 3:8-9

⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For **the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death**. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**.

3. To proclaim to all creation, both visible and invisible, that, through your faith in what Jesus accomplished, you now belong to God as His child.

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and **proclaimed to the spirits in prison**, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ **Baptism, which corresponds to this**, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who

has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and **powers having been subjected to him.**

Romans 10:9-10

...because, if you **confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord** and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

1 John 1:12-13

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become children of God**, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and **transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son**, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

How Should We Baptize?

A. Immersion, whenever possible.

The word *baptize* in Greek, means “dip” or “immerse.” The explicit descriptions of baptism in the Bible are baptism by immersion (Matthew 3:1-6, Acts 8:36-38). The imagery and metaphors associated with baptism in scripture are best associated with full-body immersion (“washing” and “cleansing”, “burial” and “resurrection.” See Acts 22:16, Colossians 2:11-12, Romans 6:3-4)

B. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19

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...**

C. With a public proclamation of your faith in God.

As seen in the verses under the “What is Baptism?” section of this packet, a person’s acceptance of the gospel, their belief/faith in God, is the prerequisite and impetus for baptism. Therefore, we will be asking you most or all of the following questions when you get baptized, giving you the opportunity to publicly confess your allegiance to Christ. We encourage you to invite family and friends to your baptism so that they can hear and see what God has done in saving you.

Questions You Will Be Asked at Baptism:

- 1. Do you acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness, mercy and grace?**
- 2. Do you believe Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross for you, was buried and rose from the dead after three days?**
- 3. Do you believe there is one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?**
- 4. Do you renounce any and all allegiance to sin and any spiritual forces of wickedness that oppose God?**
- 5. Will you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, do your best to put to death the deeds of the flesh, walking in newness of life by the Holy Spirit and learning to obey everything Jesus commanded?**

Other Common Questions Relating to Baptism:

1. Can I get baptized more than once?

Baptism, unlike holy communion, is described in the Bible as being a ***single event*** at the beginning of a new believer's walk with God.

Communion is to be the ongoing and ***regular occurrence*** of union with Christ through remembrance of the fulfillment of the Passover (Luke 22:14-20), proclamation of Christ's death (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) and participation in the blood and body of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-18).

That said, we recognize the value of a Christian publicly rededicating themselves to Christ possibly after a period of back-sliding or "departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12-13). Rededication of vows should occur publicly, with the same questions asked from the prior section. We believe this can include another water-immersion baptism if desired.

2. Can I baptize my infant or child?

As established at the beginning of this packet, baptism should not precede personal faith in God. Rather, it is an obedient expression of one's faith. Therefore, we do not practice infant baptism since infants are unable to repent of their sin and call out to God with faith. However, we do encourage parents to dedicate their children to God and dedicate themselves to be faith-filled, Christ-centered parents who raise them in the truth of the Gospel and the community of the church. Please talk with a pastor or elder if you desire to dedicate your child to God in a service of child dedication. The age at which a child can understand and express the truths of baptism described in this packet may vary from person to person and should therefore be determined on an individual basis with the assistance of a pastor.

3. Must baptism be done by a pastor?

No. The effectiveness of baptism is not determined by the person doing the baptizing, but by the faith of the individual being baptized. Therefore, we believe that any Christian (a parent, a friend, a sibling or spiritual mentor) walking in righteousness may participate in your baptism.

Application for Baptism

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

1. Have you ever been baptized before? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, please tell us the circumstances.

2. Why do you desire to be baptized at this time?

3. Do you have a particular date on which you would like to be baptized?

4. Your salvation story: Please write out what you would like us to know about how you came to faith in Jesus Christ by answering the following questions:

a. What was your life like before putting your faith in Jesus?

b. How and when did you put your faith in Jesus Christ and receive him as your Savior and Lord?

c. What are you grateful to God for that He has changed and/or is continuing to change in your life? i.e. How have you seen God change your life since surrendering to Him?