

Baptism

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Matthew 28:18-20

Throughout the history of the Christian Church, Baptism has been one of the most universally accepted practices for followers of Jesus, almost always understood as being connected with the beginning of the Christian life. When a person trusts Jesus for the first time, they move from spiritual death to new life (Colossians 2:13-15; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience and worship, signifying one’s new spiritual reality. It is also a public declaration of one’s personal faith in Jesus Christ, and an awesome time for the community around them to celebrate together the power of Jesus to save and change lives! If you have committed yourself to following Jesus, placing your faith in His death and resurrection on your behalf, but have not yet responded to His call to be baptized, we invite you to take part in baptism.

Baptism in Scripture

Baptism is a symbol of our being united with Jesus in his death and resurrection:

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection." - Romans 6:3-5

“Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.” - Colossians 2:12

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

Baptism is an act of obedience:

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘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.’” - Acts 2:38

“But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were

baptized. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed.” - Acts 8:12-13

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has received the free gift of God’s grace and believes in Jesus Christ, placing their faith in Him for their salvation. (Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12-13)

Do I Have To Be Baptized To Be Saved?

Baptism does not save you or make you a believer. Rather it is a demonstration that you already believe in Jesus, trust in Him for your salvation, and are committed to following Him. We are saved only by grace through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9), and baptism is a declaration of this belief.

Why should I be baptized?

1. *Jesus modeled baptism. And you want to be like Him and live like Him.*

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

2. *Jesus commanded baptism. And you want to live in obedience to Him.*

Jesus regarded the act of baptism to be so significant that he commissioned His Church to go all over the world baptizing disciples who believe His gospel message. "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." Matthew 28:19

3. *An inner transformation by Jesus, leads to an outer declaration of faith in Him.*

Baptism is a declaration that through faith in Christ, you identify with and have been united with Him. Baptism is similar to a wedding ring - it is an outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

Why Do We Baptize by Immersion?

In the New Testament, baptism is described as people going down into water and then coming out of it. Scripture records: "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water" (Matthew 3:16). Immersion (the act of going down into the water and coming up) best symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

What About Infant Baptism?

We believe baptism is both a willful act of obedience and a declaration of one's own choice to trust in Jesus and follow Him. With this view in mind, we do not baptize infants or young children until they are old enough to understand God's gift of salvation in Jesus, and make a willful decision to respond in personal faith. We encourage those who were baptized as infants to be baptized again as a willful act of obedience and declaration of faith.

Who will Baptize me?

Typically, someone from the Missio staff will baptize you. However it is also appropriate to be baptized by a family member or friend - someone who has significantly impacted you for Christ.

Next Steps: Prepare Your Story

Part of your baptism celebration will include sharing the story of God's grace in your life and how you came to know Jesus as your personal Savior. We would like to meet with you to hear your story and discuss the baptism process.

In preparation for baptism, please write out your salvation story, addressing the following questions:

1. When did you make a decision to follow Jesus? What was the process leading up to choosing to trust and follow Him?
2. What was life like before knowing and following Jesus?
3. How has your life been transformed through experiencing the love, grace, and truth of God through relationship with Jesus Christ?
4. Why do you desire to be baptized?