



Believer's Baptism

Information Sheet

Why be baptized?

1. Because Jesus commanded it. In the Great Commission, Jesus said that all who become Christians are to be baptized.

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 ESV)

2. Because obeying Christ's commands shows you have come to know him.

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. (1 John 2:3 ESV)

3. Because it shows you are a follower of Christ. Baptism is a public declaration of an individual's faith in Jesus Christ.

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 18:8 ESV)

4. Because it provides a visible picture of your salvation in Christ. As we are immersed into the waters of baptism, profound symbolism is at work.

Baptism symbolizes...

- a. **The washing away of sin.** *And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' (Acts 22:16 ESV)*
- b. **The death of the old life of sin.** *... How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:2-3 ESV)*
- c. **The rising to new life.** *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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:4-5 ESV)*

Is baptism necessary for salvation?

1. Baptism does not make you a Christian, but it is a public statement that you have become a follower of Christ. Baptism does not save you. Only the atoning work of Christ saves you as you enter into that gracious salvation by faith.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2 ESV)

2. While baptism does not save, all those who are saved must be baptized. As we've already seen, Christ commanded baptism. Along with the Lord's Supper, it is a sign of the New Covenant in Christ. Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is the outward symbol of the commitment you have already made in your heart.

How are we to be baptized?

1. We are to be baptized by being immersed in water.
2. The Greek word, "baptizo," literally means "to dip," or "to immerse." In New Testament times, the word was also used to describe the immersion of fabric into dye to change its color. Immersion symbolizes our being plunged into Christ and his salvation.
3. Immersion is the best way to portray a burial and resurrection. As the person being baptized goes under water, he is identifying himself with the death and burial of Christ. As he comes up out of the water, he is identifying himself with the resurrection and new life of Christ.

Who should be baptized?

1. Every person who has believed in Christ should be baptized.

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (Acts 8:12 ESV)

2. The one requirement for baptism is genuine belief in Christ. We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe in Christ's work of salvation. All children baptized at Bethel Grace, like adults, must first provide a testimony of faith and accurate understanding of the Gospel.
3. Prepare to be baptized as soon as you have believed. You shouldn't delay!

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41 ESV)

What happens now?

1. Write a ½ - 1 page “Personal Statement of Faith” as to how you became a Christian. This should include an explanation of what the Gospel is and how you came to trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and new life in Him.
2. Arrange to meet personally with a pastor to reflect together on your testimony and the biblical meaning of baptism. Your pastor will also show you around the baptismal and help you know how things will work before and after your baptism. Contact the church office to schedule an appointment.
3. A Bethel Grace Administrative Aid will communicate with you to arrange a date to be baptized along with other followers of Christ at a Sunday service.

What happens during the baptism?

1. Deacons and/or deaconesses will be there to assist and encourage at the baptisms.
2. Come out into the water to be interviewed. Your pastor will ask:
 - a. Have you confessed your sinful condition and trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation?
 - b. Is Jesus the Lord and Savior of your life?
 - c. How did you become a follower of Jesus? (You may read your testimony, or your pastor can read it for you.)
2. DO NOT TOUCH THE MIC.
3. After the questions, fold your arms crisscross over your chest and pinch your nose.
4. Your pastor will say... “Upon hearing your confession of faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
5. Putting one arm around your back and grabbing on to your wrist, your pastor will lay you back into the water and bring you back up.
6. Everyone rejoices! Give thanks and praise to the Lord!
7. Walk out of the baptismal—be careful, it’s slippery!!!

What do I wear during baptism?

1. Ladies – We will provide a white baptismal robe for you to wear. You will want to have something white/beige to wear under the robe. That could be a white t-shirt and any color shorts or white t-shirt and light colored bathing suit or a bathing suit with a full slip over it.
2. Men – you have the choice to either wear a baptismal robe or your own collared white dress shirt with a plain white t-shirt under it along with swim trunks or shorts. If you would like to wear the robe, please let us know. You’ll need to wear swim trunks and a plain white t-shirt under the robe.

What do I bring?

1. Clothes for the baptism as indicated above.
2. Grooming materials (including blow dryer and any other hair products, make up, etc.)
3. Clothes to change into for the remainder of the service.
4. Towel. Plus optional – robe to wear between buildings both ways.
5. Flip flops.