

Instructions for Your Baptism

We are happy that you are considering baptism! Below are some basic instruction that we trust you will find helpful.

1. Being without a permanent church structure, baptisms could be held at varying places. We do have a local family that has made open to us a gorgeous pond on their property for baptisms.
2. Any person wanting to be baptized needs to set up a time with Pastor Tom to talk and to schedule your event.
3. We encourage anyone who is being baptized to invite family and friends, both saved and not, to celebrate and learn from your baptism.
4. Those who are being baptized will be introduced by the pastor and led in a brief statement of faith. In some cases, you may be able to give a pre-planned testimony if you wish.
5. Individuals being baptized are lowered once in the water and brought back up quickly.
6. Make sure you bring a change of clothes and a couple of towels with you.

7. The attire is casual. Shorts and/or jeans and a T-shirt are appropriate. Be careful about wearing plain, light-colored T-shirts or tops that may be see through when wet.
8. All participants will receive a baptismal certificate.
9. All participants will be able to look into membership to The Shepherd's Fellowship if they so desire.



What the Bible Says About Baptism

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What the Bible says about Baptism



The Shepherd's Fellowship

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Water Baptism

According to the New Testament

Why Be Baptized?

1. Because you want to follow Christ's example

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

2. Because Christ commanded it

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" - Matthew 28:19-20

3. Because it shows you are a believer

"...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." - Acts 18:8

4. Because obeying Christ's command shows you know Him

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." - I John 2:3

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It is a symbol of Christ's death, burial, & resurrection.

When someone goes under the water, it portrays the death and burial of our sinful nature, and when someone comes back up, it portrays being resurrected to a brand new life!

"Christ died for our sins...he was buried... and He rose again." - I Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." - Colossians 2:12

2. It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old self has passed away and a new life has begun!" - II Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then we are buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead, also we might live a new life!" - Romans 6:4

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you are already one. It is your faith in Christ that saves you.

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

Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

How are we to be baptized?

1. To be like Jesus—we are baptized by immersion in water.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water" - Matthew 3:16

2. The word Baptize (baptize) literally means "to dip under water".

"I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies" - Martin Luther

"The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the early church." - John Calvin

Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized" - Acts 2:41

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." - Acts 8:13

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

Because of this we do not baptize infants until they are old enough to understand and believe.

When Are We to be Baptized?

When you accept Jesus as your Leader and Forgiver, baptism should become soon thereafter.

"Those who believed...were baptized...that day!" - Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the 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 right now? Philip said, if you believe with all your heart, you may. The official answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him (Acts 8:36—39, paraphrase)

If you have never been baptized by immersion since becoming a believer in Jesus Christ, we would encourage you to do so. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to follow the Lord in this way. At the same time, if you have had a prior, meaningful experience that you consider your baptism, we respect that and would like to talk to you more.