

BAPTISM PROCESS OVERVIEW

Congratulations! One Church celebrates your personal faith in Jesus Christ and your interest in baptism! Baptism is a significant step in your spiritual journey with Christ and we look forward to sharing this experience with you!

If you wish to be baptized at One Church, below is the process for scheduling and preparing for your baptism:

1. Read ALL Contents of this Packet.
2. Submit Baptism Request Form and Testimony before announced deadline (if applicable). We will review your application and contact you to confirm your baptism and provide details so you can prepare.
3. Invite your family and friends to witness your baptism and celebrate with you! This is a prime opportunity for you to invite people you love to experience your baptism. People who would otherwise not attend church will often gladly attend a baptism celebration. What a fantastic opportunity for them to hear a clear presentation of the gospel!

If you have any questions or concerns as you work through this process we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact us!

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BAPTISM DAY INFORMATION

General Information Regarding Water Baptism

1. Water Baptism is formally scheduled when we have received your application form. (We will contact you if we have any questions.)
2. People scheduled to be baptized must attend a brief baptism orientation briefing, usually the day of their baptism. Once your baptism is scheduled, you will be given more details as to the time/date of the briefing.
3. Please invite your family and friends to witness your baptism and to celebrate with you! This is your opportunity to share with them, in a public way, what Jesus has done in your heart and to witness to your faith in Him as Lord and Savior. It's your chance to share your "faith story" through the picture of baptism!

Please bring the following items with you:

1. We typically provide a commemorative t-shirt and shorts for you to be baptized in. However, in the event we run out, please bring clothes that can go under the water. We baptize by immersion, so you will go all the way under the water.
 - Men: wear shorts or swimming trunks and colored t-shirt
 - Ladies: shorts/t-shirt (no white/see-through; no bathing suits)
2. Dry clothes into which you can change (including underwear).
3. Towel
4. Plastic bag for your wet clothes

ADULT BAPTISM STUDY GUIDE

People from One Church come from various denominational backgrounds with different points of view of baptism. This information should help you understand a biblical point of view whether you are new to the Christian faith or you are a Christian but have not been baptized since committing your life to Jesus Christ. If you have a young child (third grade or younger) who wants to be baptized, we encourage you to meet with a pastor or staff member to discuss their baptism and to ensure they fully grasp the significance of the decision they are making to be baptized.

Who should be baptized?

All who have trusted Jesus Christ as their savior should be baptized. Baptism was given expressly and exclusively to those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior and trust him alone to provide forgiveness of sin and a right relationship with God. It is an outward expression of one's faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Essential Beliefs about the Person of Jesus:

1. Jesus is God.

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. Jesus became a man.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:7 - but (he) made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

3. Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 - "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Essential Beliefs about the Work of Jesus:

1. Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life.

Hebrews 4:15 -For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

2. Jesus died as a substitute for me.

1 Peter 3:18. Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

3. Jesus rose from the grave.

Romans 10:9. If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:17,20 If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

What Baptism means and doesn't mean:

Baptism is a symbol of the salvation that has already taken place in your life! Baptism does not save you, only faith in Jesus Christ alone saves.

Baptism is an outward sign that a person has entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what has already taken place inwardly at the time of salvation. Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is also an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God.

Baptism is a symbol similar to a wedding ring. A wedding ring is worn by people who've committed their life in marriage to one another. The ring doesn't make them married. It is a public statement and symbol that declares to others that they have exchanged vows and made a life-long commitment to one another. So it is with baptism. Baptism doesn't save you. It shows others your salvation in Jesus Christ has taken place.

When to be Baptized:

You should be baptized as soon as possible after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Acts 8:35-38 - 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 2:41 — Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Why be Baptized:

Christ commanded it.

Matthew 28:19-20— “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.”

It follows Christ’s example.

Mark 1:9-10 — “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”

It’s a public profession of your faith.

Acts 8:12 — 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.

How do we Baptize?

The Greek word for baptism (*baptizo*) literally means to immerse or dunk. This is the word used to describe Jesus’ own baptism by John the Baptist. Because Jesus modeled this act for us, we baptize by immersion.

Matthew 3:16 — As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.”

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

Only Immersion pictures this reality: as we go under the water, we illustrate being buried with Christ—dying to our old way of living life without Christ; We are raised up out of the water to symbolize we are born again to live a new life with Christ as our Lord and Savior.

What about infant baptism?

While we celebrate the love and blessing of parents that is at the heart and intent of infant baptism, in the Bible we see baptism occurring only after a person has made a personal conscious choice to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. An infant or very young child cannot make an informed choice to follow Jesus.

In the Bible, baby/child dedication (not baptism) is the biblical model for dedicating a child to God before they personally choose to follow Christ for themselves. (Jesus himself was dedicated in the temple as an infant, but not baptized.)

What about being baptized again?

One Church recommends that you be baptized if you have not been baptized by immersion since choosing to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Or, if you were baptized previously, but feel you did not fully understand the significance of baptism picturing your personal choice to follow Jesus Christ, we recommend being baptized.

You don't need to be baptized again if you have been baptized since accepting Jesus Christ but have since struggled and are now renewing your commitment to Christ. If you are seeking to rededicate your life to God, the best action is to get connected in a small group and focus on growing your relationship with God in community with other believers.

Baptism Position Paper

Included in this packet is the One Church position paper on baptism, “The Significance & Meaning of Water Baptism”. While much of this material has already been covered, this summary paper contains further explanation and additional scriptural references you may find helpful.

The Significance & Meaning of Water Baptism

Baptism is a visible picture and testimony that a person has renounced the old life of self-centeredness (living life independent from Christ, which is sin), and has begun a new life of following Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Baptism is a physical symbol of the spiritual reality of what Christ does in a believer’s life.

The moment a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, several things happen simultaneously: Christ baptizes the new believer in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11), cleanses them from sin (Acts 22:16), and gives them a new life—a resurrected life (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12).

Water baptism is a symbol of these inward changes that have taken place in a new believer, and should always follow—not precede—a person’s choice to place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

The Bible teaches that baptism is a practice of obedience to Jesus Christ—usually one of the very first steps a new believer takes. Once a person has placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, they should seek to be water baptized as soon as possible as a way of obeying Jesus (Acts 8:36, Acts 16:33, Acts 18:8) and publicly proclaiming faith in Jesus.

Baptism is so important that the New Testament assumes everyone who believes in Jesus will be baptized. Baptism is not essential to salvation (Titus 3:5, Luke 23:39-43), but it is an essential step of obedience after a person has been saved.

In the New Testament, baptism always follows personal faith in Christ (Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12-13). We only baptize people who have personal

faith in Jesus, therefore infants are not baptized. While infant baptism is often meaningful to parents, the person baptized did not experience scriptural baptism because they cannot choose for themselves to embrace a personal relationship with Christ. We encourage believers baptized as infants to seek New Testament baptism after choosing to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith.

Instead of infant baptism, we encourage “parent-child dedications” where parents dedicate themselves to raise their children in the church and to do all within their power and example to lead them to a point where they can choose to embrace Christ for themselves. Parent-child dedications take place during a brief, but meaningful commitment in a worship service of the church.

Baptism in the Bible is done by immersion. The word in the New Testament translated “baptism” actually means “to immerse, or dip under.” The New Testament seems to indicate Jesus was immersed in his baptism (Matthew 3:16). Only immersion adequately symbolizes death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12).

9Those who were baptized in some other way, other than immersion (sprinkling, pouring) are encouraged to seek baptism by immersion in keeping with the Biblical pattern. However, the mode of baptism (immersion, pouring or sprinkling) is not viewed as an essential matter for membership at One Church. Membership into the church of Jesus Christ is based on an individual’s personal relationship with Jesus Christ alone. All who have experienced salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ are welcome to become members at One Church.