

WATER BAPTISM

according to the New Testament

I. 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 every where 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." 1 John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins...he was buried...and he rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

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

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then we were 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 already are one! Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

"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

III. HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

1. Like Jesus was baptized - by being immersed in water.

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

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water.

(Example) *"...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38, 39*

3. The word "baptize" literally means "to dip under water".

The Greek word "baptizo" means "to immerse or dip under water."

4. It is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection.

The founders of different denominations agree:

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

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

John Wesley... "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

IV. 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 8:12

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ! We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

V. WHEN ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay.

"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)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

Other Questions:

What about being baptized twice?

Our church recommends that you be baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

Will I have to say anything?

Yes and no. Confessing Christ is part of the baptism experience. However, we will actually videotape your confession and any other testimonial thoughts you may want to share prior to the baptism service at our informational meeting. You will NOT have to say anything in the service itself.

***GOD WILL BLESS YOU
AS YOU DEMONSTRATE
YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST!***

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISM

We are so happy that you desire to follow the Lord's example in baptism. There will probably be others baptized with you.

1. For a schedule of upcoming baptism dates, connect with Pastor John or call the church office at 754-0333.
2. Before being baptized, we ask you to attend an informational class that will be held prior to the baptism service. In addition to sharing helpful information, we will also videotape your brief testimony and confession of faith to be used in the baptism service.
3. Please bring a towel and a hairdryer (if desired). We encourage women to wear a swim suit with shorts and a top over the swim suit. Men may wear a swim suit and a plain T-shirt. You will be able to change clothes in the restroom if you desire. We do have baptism gowns available by request.

4. One of our pastors will baptize each person one at a time, but families can be near the baptistry pool together for a picture.

5. Don't be surprised when people clap at your baptism. It is a happy experience for every Christian when someone publicly identifies himself as a believer and is baptized.

For more information, or to express your desire to be baptized, connect with Pastor John Leslie at (513)754-0333, ext. 108 or at jleslie@grace-chapel.com



406 Fourth Avenue
Mason, OH 45040
513.754.0333

