

### ***Who should be baptized?***

Every person who has believed in Christ. In the Bible everyone who accepted Christ was baptized. It is a response to that belief.

“Those who believe 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

“Simon himself believed and was baptized . . .” - Acts 8:13

### ***What is the meaning of baptism?***

**It illustrates Christ’s burial and resurrection.**

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

**It illustrates my new life as a Christian.**

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

### ***Why should I be baptized?***

1. To follow Jesus’ example (Matthew 3:13-17).
2. To follow New Testament example (Acts 8, 9, 10, 16).
3. To obey Christ’s teaching (Matthew 28:19).
4. To express repentance (Acts 2:38).
5. To participate with Jesus in His burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).
6. To be clothed with Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
7. As a pledge to God (1 Peter 3:21).

### ***Is baptism necessary for salvation?***

Baptism does not make you a believer – it shows that you already believe. To be baptized without faith and repentance has no more spiritual significance than a bath! “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

### ***When and where can I be baptized?***

As soon as you have believed. Every new believer in the Bible responded with being baptized.

“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 man 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 man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” - Acts 8:35-38

Why delay? We encourage you, as soon as you have decided to put your faith in Jesus and follow Him, to schedule your baptism and invite your family and friends to attend.

### ***Can my family and friends be baptized together?***

If each person 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.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family or group tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism for very long while waiting on others to join you. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

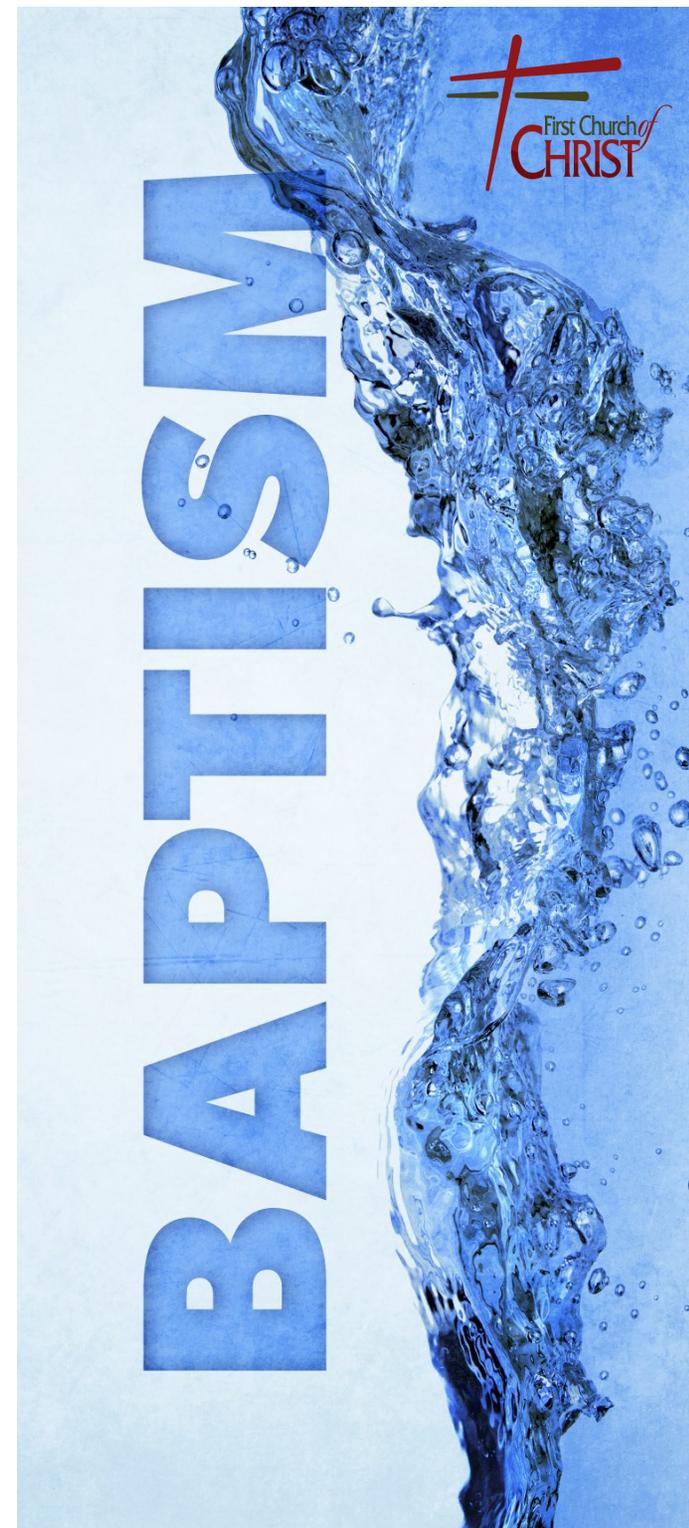
### ***Baptize... Baptized... Baptism***

Mark 1:9; 16:16 Luke 3:21 John 3:23  
Acts 18:8; 19:5; 22:16 1 Corinthians 12:13  
Ephesians 4:5

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When the Bible talks about baptism, it almost always talks about it in connection with forgiveness, salvation, and the washing away of sins. But this confuses many people, because the Bible clearly teaches that man is saved by grace, through faith (Ephesians 2:8). So what, if anything, does baptism have to do with salvation? Let's see what the Bible really teaches.

### ***Baptism is The Biblical Expression of Faith***

Baptism is not something we do in addition to having faith in Christ. Baptism is an expression of faith in Christ. In fact, baptism is the biblical way for a lost person to express faith in Christ, in order to be saved by God's grace.

To say it another way, baptism is the biblical way of crying out to the Lord in faith, "I want nothing more to do with a life of sin. I want to live anew as your humble servant. Please, Lord, wash me and I will be clean."

### **Listen to the New Testament:**

- Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
- Baptism is the moment when sins are washed away (Acts 22:16).
- Baptism is the act of putting on Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:27).
- Baptism unites us with Christ. Our old self is buried and we're raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:11).
- Baptism saves us because it is an appeal for a clean conscience (1 Peter 3:21).

None of what the New Testament teaches about baptism contradicts what is said in passages like Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." What the Bible says about baptism is in perfect harmony with what it says about grace and faith. We are baptized because we have faith that God really does save sinners "by grace."

### ***Why be baptized by immersion?***

1. Jesus was baptized that way. **"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. The New Testament was written in Greek. They had three different words to describe what many Christians today consider to be the "modes" of baptism. *Baptizo* was the word for immerse, plunge, or dip under water. *Rhantizo* meant to sprinkle and *cheo* meant to pour. In every reference to baptism in the New Testament only *baptizo* was used.  
(Example) ". . . then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up **out of the water** . . ." - Acts 8:38-39
3. It best symbolized a burial and resurrection! Immersion best represents our unity with Christ in death as it takes one completely under the water. As one is raised back up it identifies them with a new life in through Jesus' resurrection.

### **Founders and Leaders of Denominations Agree**

**John Calvin** (Presbyterian): "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the primitive church."

**Martin Luther** (Lutheran): "Baptism' is a Greek word, and may be translated 'immerse.' I would have those who are to be baptized to be altogether dipped."

**John Wesley** (Methodist): "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

**Wall** (Episcopalian): "Immersion was in all probability the way in which our blessed Saviour, and for certain, the way by which the ancient Christians received their baptism."

**Brenner** (Catholic): "For thirteen hundred years baptism was an immersion of the person under water."

### ***What if I was baptized as a baby?***

We honor and uphold the spiritual heritage of the people of FCC! God has been at work your entire life revealing Himself to you and drawing you to Himself. We praise God for the things that have brought you to this point in your spiritual journey.

If we see how the Bible connects baptism with an expression of faith and repentance through a pledge to God, then we realize nobody else can make this decision for you.

We recognize the importance of parents dedicating their children to be raised for the Lord and offer this service, a "child dedication." This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents, God, and the congregation on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ.

At FCC, all we can do is teach the Bible the best we understand it and encourage people to examine and obey the scriptures.

### ***Who can baptize me?***

Ideally it would be the person who encouraged you to follow Christ. However it can be anyone who is a follower of Jesus.

### ***Will I have to say anything?***

The one baptizing you will introduce you and will ask you if you would give a brief testimony about how God had brought you to that point. He/She will then lower you just under the water, bring you back up, and pray for you.

### ***What should I wear?***

Just wear something modest and not too revealing when it gets wet. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.