



baptism packet

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

Baptism is a symbol of your decision to follow Christ.

Think of baptism like a wedding ring. You wear it because you're proud of your spouse and your decision to get married. It doesn't make you married, but it's an important symbol that you are. Likewise, baptism does not make you a Christian, it simply symbolizes that you have professed Christ as your Savior.

Baptism illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

Whenever you see someone baptized, they are telling a great story. They are also telling the story of Jesus. When you see someone go under the water, it's the picture of Christ's death. When you see them come up out of the water, it's a picture of His resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." -- 1 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

Baptism illustrates your 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

Baptism symbolizes a spiritual connectedness to all believers in Christ.

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."
-- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it shows that you already believe.

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

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

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

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. When you read the Bible, you never see anyone sprinkled. That doesn't mean it's wrong, it's just not how they did it in Jesus' day.

Jesus was baptized by immersion.

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

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has believed in Christ should be baptized.

"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

At Expedition Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. A little child could wear a wedding ring, but the meaning would not be the same. Likewise, we could baptize children before they are able to understand and believe, but the meaning would not be the same.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God, on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his or her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal faith in Christ and commitment to Him.

The Bible does not prohibit children from being baptized (though you never see it happen in the Bible), but when you consider the meaning and symbolism of baptism, it makes much more sense to baptize older children and adults.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

You should be baptized soon after you have professed your faith in Christ.

"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

Soon after you have put your faith in Christ as Savior, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you feel like you are perfect, then you will never feel good enough.

CAN MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! 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.

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

NEXT STEP:

Fill out the Baptism Application and turn it so we can get you baptized at the next available date.

HELPFUL HINTS

if baptism is on a Sunday at church

Please fill out the Baptism Application and return it ASAP, but no later than the Wednesday before the scheduled baptism, so someone can provide further details to you and also answer any questions you may have. Submission later than the Wednesday before the baptism will result in a delay of your baptism.

F.Y.I.

- We will be using a portable baptistery for the baptisms.
- **If the baptism is during the worship service**, you will need to meet in front of the Sound Booth in the worship center, already dressed in your baptism clothes, at **10:10am** to go over some final details about the baptism (when and where to line up, change clothes, etc.).
- **If the baptism is at church after the worship service**, as we get closer to the date of the baptism, we will give you further details on when to meet at the Sound Booth for final instructions.
- Make sure you wear something appropriate for the baptism (you will get completely wet).
 - Guys: wear swimming trunks or shorts and a dark colored t-shirt
 - Ladies: wear shorts and a dark colored t-shirt
- Have dry clothes to change into (don't forget underwear).
- Bring a towel.
- Bring a plastic bag for your wet clothes.
- Feel free to have people take pictures.
- Invite your friends and family.

HELPFUL HINTS

if baptism is at Lake Allatoona or Riverside Day Use Park

Please fill out the Baptism Application and return it no later than the Wednesday before the scheduled baptism so someone can provide further details to you and also answer any questions you may have. Submission later than the Wednesday before the baptism will result in a delay of your baptism.

F.Y.I.

- Rocks or other sharp objects may not be visible, so consider bringing water shoes/sandals.
- Dressing rooms may not be available, so make sure you are prepared to towel dry if necessary.
- Make sure you wear something in which you wish to be baptized (you will get completely wet).
 - Guys: wear a T-shirt and Swimming Trunks
 - Ladies: Wear a one piece bathing suit or shorts and a dark colored T-shirt.
- Have dry clothes to change into (don't forget underwear).
- Bring a towel.
- You might want a plastic bag for your wet clothes.
- Feel free to have people take pictures.
- Invite your friends and family.

Name: _____

Have you been baptized by immersion before? ___Yes ___No

If so, when and where? _____

What are you currently doing to grow spiritually and strengthen your relationship with God?

What do you think you need to help you grow stronger spiritually?

What questions do you have about baptism?

