



Christian Life Church

SHOULD I BE WATER BAPTIZED?

WATER BAPTISM & YOUR CHILD

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for taking time to walk through this very important subject with your child! When your child shows curiosity about water baptism, this guide is crafted to assist you in journeying together with your child as you discern whether they are ready for this next big step. I have included scriptures and questions for you to discuss together.

The decision of whether or not your child is ready to be baptized is a big one. As water baptism is often a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, there is no need to rush your child into this event. I have found that children often begin asking questions about baptism in 4th or 5th grade. Before this, most kids cannot completely grasp the weight of their sin (and for some it may take much longer). However, the Bible does not seem concerned about how old a person is when they are baptized. Ultimately this is at your discretion.

Here are a few questions to consider when completing this packet with your child:

- Does my child truly grasp the weight of their sin?
- Does my child understand Jesus' forgiveness of their sin?
- Have I prayerfully considered my child's faith? Do I feel like baptism is right for them at this time?
- Am I convinced my child is making this decision because of their own faith (and not because of pressure from me, friends or the church)?

If your child is ready for baptism, please reach out to myself or any of the church staff. If your child needs to wait - no problem! Continue fostering their faith! We are so excited to take this next step with you and your child!

Pastor Amberlyn Barribean

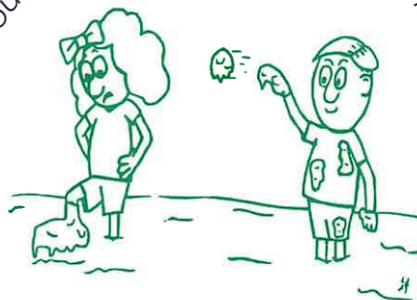
amberlyn@christianlifefamily.com

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WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Tip: Grab your Bibles & look up the Scriptures together!



Baptism? Rub and Scrub?

Wow, do you need a bath! You must be somewhere under all that dirt."

After playing outside all day, we can get pretty dirty. A bath or shower can do wonders! But no matter how long you soak, or rub, or scrub, it won't do anything about the gunk on the inside.

Isaiah 64:6 describes what we look like on the inside before we are washed.

Isiah 64:6 "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like wind our sins sweep us away."

Sounds pretty bad, doesn't it. But there is only one way we can get cleaned up on the inside.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Are you clean on the inside? _____ Why? _____

What did you do or say? _____

The thought of our God forgiving all our sins is pretty amazing! How do you respond to a God who cares about you that much?

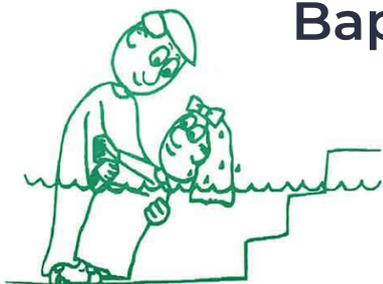
John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will obey what I command."

One of Jesus' greatest commands is found in Matthew 28:19:

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

What is Jesus commanding us to do?

Baptism



Baptism. That's an interesting word. The word "Bapto" in Greek means to "dip or wash". We are baptized not to wash our bodies, but as a symbol of how Jesus washes away our sin on the inside.

John 15:3 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you"

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a Symbol

Baptism is a symbol of three things.

- 1** Baptism is a symbol of our washing. When your sports team wins the championship, you get a trophy. The trophy isn't the team or game or even the winning moment, but a symbol of the great playing



that happened all season. Baptism is a symbol, or picture, of the washing that has taken place inside of us when we as Christ into our lives to be our Savior.

- 2** Baptism is a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-5 "Did you forget that all of us became part of Christ when we were baptized? We shared his death in our baptism. So when we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. We were buried with him so that we could live a new life, just as Christ was raised from death by the wonderful power of the Father. Christ died, and we have been joined with Christ by dying too. So we will also be joined with him by rising from death as he did."

When you are baptized, going under water represents....

Christ's death *OR* Christ's resurrection

When you are baptized, coming out of the water represents....

Christ's death *OR* Christ's resurrection

- 3** Baptism represents unity in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 "Some of us are Jews, and some of us are Greeks. Some of us are slaves, and some of us are free. But we were all baptized into one body through one Spirit. And we were all made to share in the one Spirit."

Colossians 1:18 "He is the head of the body. (The body is the church.) Everything comes from him. And he is the first one who was raised from death."

"But we were all _____ into one _____ through one Spirit"

What are the three truths that baptism symbolizes?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

WHY?

WHO?

Why should we be baptized?

Remember Matthew 28:19?

Right! We should be baptized because God told us to. It is also important to follow Christ's example. Read about His baptism in Mark 1:9-11:

Mark 1:9-11 "At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the place where John was. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. When Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven open. The Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. A voice came from heaven and said: 'You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you.'"

Maybe you've watched or played a baseball game. Each player has a uniform so you know exactly which team he is on. Baptism is very similar. We don't get baptized alone in our own bathtub. Instead, we gather together with other Christians to publicly announce that we have put our faith in Jesus Christ and that we are on 'God's team'!



Matthew 10:32 "If anyone stands before other people and says he believes in me, then I will say that he belongs to me. I will say this before my Father in heaven."

Who should be baptized?

The book of Acts talks a lot more about baptism.

In Acts 2:41 the Apostle Peter was talking to a large group of people about Jesus.

Acts 2:41 "Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptized. About 3,000 people were added to the number of believers that day."

Which people in the crowd were baptized?

Acts 8:12 "But Philip told them the Good News about the kingdom of God and the power of Jesus Christ. Men and women believed in Jesus and were baptized."

In Acts 8:12, what two things did the men and women do?



Which of the two above must be done first?

HOW?

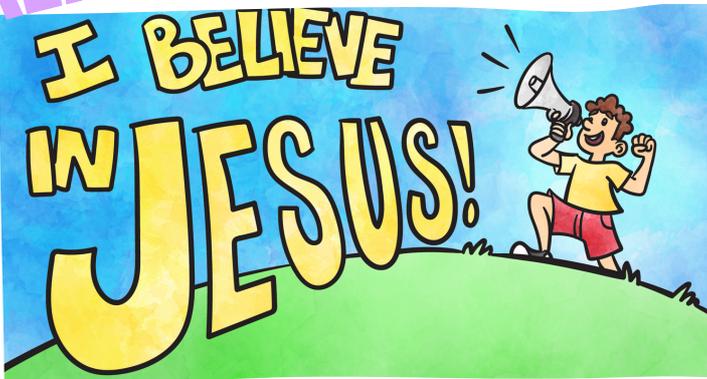
How do we baptize?

While it is a tradition in some churches, the Bible does not record anywhere that babies are meant to be baptized. According to the Bible, babies do not need to be baptized as they do not understand that they are sinners, and therefore cannot repent and accept Jesus as their Savior.

Following the examples we see in Scripture, baptism is done by fully submerging the person in water. We want to follow the example of Jesus and the commands of the Bible as closely as possible.

**GETTING
READY**

What does Baptism day look like?



1. You share your testimony



2. Pastor will ask you if you believe in Jesus



3. If you do, you say yes!



4. Plug your nose



5. You will be dipped quickly under water



6. Everyone will celebrate with you that you have chosen to follow Jesus!



Additional Resources:

Go Kids Water Baptism (3 min video)



Why Get Baptized? (18 min video)



NEXT STEP



If baptism is your desire, fill out the following:

I, _____ would like to be baptized. I have accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. I want to obey His command and follow Him.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Parent signature:

Note: Please take some time after completing this packet to prayerfully consider whether your child is ready to be water baptized. Contact Pastor Amberlyn or Pastor Laura to set up a brief meeting if your child is ready for this next Big Step!

Preparing for the Day!

Which service?

First service (9am) *OR* Second service (10:45am)

Testimony:

In person (*preferred) *OR* Pre-recorded

Remember to bring:

- **A copy of your personal testimony to read**
- **Towel**
- **Wear dark shirt and shorts (no bathing suits please)**
- **A complete change of clothing (including undergarments)**
- **Plastic bag for wet clothes**
- **Any family/friends who wish to watch or take pictures (we can reserve seats too!)**

Remember, when you choose to be water baptized, there's no need to be nervous! You are obeying God and have His total support. Our church family supports you and praises God for your decision as well! We are so excited for you!