



Crossroads Student Ministries

Planted in Community
Rooted in Truth
Reaching in Love

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crossroads bible church
BUILDING A COMMUNITY
"CHANGE" WORLD



Why Water Baptism

According to the New Testament

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

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.

Because Christ commanded it.

Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere 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.

Because it shows you are a believer.

". . . many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8.

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.*

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

It is the symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. *"Christ died for our sins. . . He was buried. . . and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4. "For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Col. 2:12*

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. "

When someone becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Cor. 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!" Rom. 6:4.

Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you are already one! Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's an outward symbol of the commitment you made 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." Eph. 2:8-9.

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

Like Jesus was baptized – by being immersed in water. *"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matt. 3:16.*

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.*

The word "Baptize" literally means "to dip under water." The Greek word "baptize" means to immerse or dip under water.

Since receiving Christ, how have you grown in Christ? What changes has he made in your life? What is he teaching you now? What does it mean for you to "live as a Christian?" Why do you desire to follow Christ with your life?

Please list a favorite verse or passage of scripture that sums up your life as a Christian. (Others have used favorite scriptures like these: Proverbs 3:5-6, 2nd Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20)

Testimony Worksheet

Turn this sheet in with the rest of the application. We will return this to you so that you can go over it before we ask you to share your testimony when you are baptized.

Write out the main points about how you became a Christian. The following questions may help you think through conversion more clearly: How did you recognize your need for Christ? Did you have to give up anything in order to become a Christian? How did the Word of God play a part in your decisions? How did you repent of your sins? What did mean to accept Christ in your heart?

It is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection. The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther. . . . “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the system 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, alluded to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

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 8:21. “Simon himself believed and was baptized.” Acts 8:13.*

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

WHEN ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed! You should not delay. *“Those who believed. . . Were baptized . . . that day!” Acts 2:41. “Then Philip 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.

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS A BABY?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn’t devalue a prior experience by simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized and it was your decision to be baptized.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

Yes. You will be asked to share briefly your story about how you became a Christian. If you were saved at a very young age, it might be better to briefly share how you got saved and then focus on what God has been doing in your life since. After sharing how you got saved, then share about what has God changed in your life. For the end, we would like you to choose a Bible verse or passage that means a lot to you and read or recite that for the audience. It is an exciting time to hear about how Christ is working in peoples lives.

WHAT IF I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION?

Call or email us. We would love to talk to you more about it.

Crossroads Student Ministry Baptismal Application

We are excited about your desire to be baptized! Would you please take some time to fill out the application below to help you work through your testimony and allow us to get all the information correct on your baptism certificate? After you have completed it, I would encourage you to show it to your parents so that they can share in what God has and is doing in your life. Please return this worksheet to a member of the youth staff team or to the white mailbox in the student center promptly. **All applications are due by the scheduled baptism class - check the CSM webpage for specific details.**

You must attend the baptism class if you want to be baptized. During this time it will be fully explained what baptism is and why it is so significant. We will also cover the details of the actual process, give you a chance to practice your testimony and also ask any questions that you may have.

On the day of baptism - usually a Wednesday evening - students who will be baptized must coordinate a time with their Junior High , High School, or College Pastor to meet a little earlier in the Worship Center for final instructions. Remember to bring a modest swimsuit, white t-shirt, towel, your testimony written out, and a change of clothes. We would like one member of your family or your spiritual mentor to pray for you during the worship service after you share your testimony.

What a great way to identify with Christ and say that you are serious about your faith in front of your peers through this act of obedience. If you have any questions about this application or baptism in general, give any of the youth staff a call here at the church, (425) 747-6750. Completed forms need to be turned in on or before Baptism Class.

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Parent's Names _____ Grade _____ School _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____

When did you become a believer and follower of Jesus Christ?

What decision did you make when you became a Christian?

Suppose you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" how would you respond?

How has your decision to follow Christ changed your life? (Please be specific)

Will Christ ever leave you once you receive Him? YES NO UNSURE

Is it possible to lose your salvation? YES NO UNSURE

Have you ever been baptized as a Christian? YES NO

Explain your present involvement in the youth group.

What would you like to do for the Lord this year at school, home, and church? Any information we would need to know in regard to your being immersed in water (fear of water, physical disability, etc.)?

Student's Signature _____ Parent's Signature _____