

Water Baptism



Liberty Christian Center

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CHECKING IT OUT

“SO WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?”

If you are reading this booklet you are likely either considering baptism or have already decided to be baptized and that is a great thing! Whether you know a lot about baptism or very little, this booklet will help you learn more and prepare for your baptism.

Another great resource is Discipleship Class. It is offered on weekly and is a wonderful way to learn more about what it means to be a follower of Christ, baptism, communion and what it means to be a part of the church. We strongly encourage everyone who attends LCC to take this course so please also consider signing up for the next course. If you have never attended Discipleship Class, you will be asked to meet with one of our pastors prior to your baptism.



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

"CAN I BE BAPTIZED?"

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS ACCEPTED CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOUR
SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized" Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized" Acts 8:13

*"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*

See also: Acts 8:38, Acts 8:12,35-28, Acts 9:18, Acts 16:14, 15a, Acts 18:8, Matthew 28:19

At LCC, we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. No one knows a child more than their parent. We rely on the parent to decide whether their child is ready to be baptized.

LCC does not practice infant baptism. We believe this is not in agreement with the the Scriptures. The Scriptures tell us the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the children (Mt. 19:14). At LCC we dedicate our children to the Lord and reserve baptism for those who make a commitment to follow Christ.



WHY GET BAPTIZED

"I BELIEVE, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?"

1) TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

See also Matt 3:13-15, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:29-34

2) BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them 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.'" Matt. 28:19-20

3) THE EARLY CHURCH PRACTICED IT

- * Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:38-41
- * Men and women in Samaria were baptized - Acts 8:12-13
- * Ethiopian eunuch - Acts 8:26-29
- * Saul - Acts 9:18
- * The Phillippian jailer - Acts 16:33

4) IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A BELIEVER

"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8



MEANING OF BAPTISM

"HOW DOES IT SHOW THAT I AM A BELIEVER?"

1) IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

"Christ died for our sins, He was buried...and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

"For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Col. 2:12

2) IT ILLUSTRATES YOUR 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 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...so also we may live a new life! Rom. 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of a commitment you made in your heart.

"For it is by grace that 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



METHOD OF BAPTISM

“DO I HAVE TO GET DUNKED?”

There are different baptism methods that are practiced in Christian circles. We prefer baptism by immersion because we believe that it best symbolizes the spiritual reality of life in Christ.

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

“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water. .”. Act 8:38-39 is one example. See also Acts 3:23-, Matt 3:16-, Mark 1:10-. These verses all indicate that baptism in Scripture required the use of much water and it also required a going down and coming up.

3) THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO IMMERSE IN WATER.

The Greek word baptizo means, “to immerse or dip under water”.

4) IT SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

See Romans 6:3,4 and Col. 2:12



WHEN TO BE BAPTIZED

“I AM A NEW BELIEVER, SHOULD I WAIT?”

There is no reason to wait. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel “good enough”! Take a look at what the Bible says. . .

“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 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 is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38



HOW TO PREPARE

“WHAT DO I HAVE TO SAY?”

Don't get baptized because someone else is or because someone tells you to. Be certain of your own faith in Jesus and the conviction in your heart to be baptized.

Romans 10:9 talks about the importance of a verbal confession of your faith in Jesus. This is sometimes called a “testimony”. Before you are baptized you will have the privilege of making a brief statement about your commitment to Jesus. The following outline will help.

Things to do

- Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write. (James 1:5,6)
- Follow a three-point outline:
 - a) Life **before** knowing Christ
 - b) **How** you came to know Christ.
 - c) Life **after** you received Christ. (i.e.- Changes He has made. What He means to you now.)
- Emphasize point “c” above is you became Christian as a small child.
- Give enough details to arouse interest.
- You may use one Bible verse to “clinch” what you are saying.
- Edit and rewrite carefully until the final draft is reduced to five minutes or six minutes at the most.
- Emphasize having received Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- Be realistic. Christ does not eliminate all the problems of life, but enables you to live and work them out with the confidence that He is with you and helping you.
- Be positive!

Things to avoid

- Making statements which reflect negatively on the church, other organizations or people.
- Mentioning denominations, especially in a derogatory way.
- Preaching at people. This is a testimony, not a “preachimony”. Say “I” and “me”, not “you”.
- Telling all the “gory” details of your sinful past life. The major emphasis must be on what God has done.

How to share your testimony

- Share your testimony with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 5:18)
- Speak loudly and clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice.
- Avoid, as much as possible, mannerisms such as rubbing your nose, swaying back and forth, clearing your throat, using “uh’s” and “ah’s”.
- Smile often. Ask the Lord in advance to give you a happy, radiant countenance. Those who listen should see that you enjoy telling your story.
- Practice your testimony until it becomes natural.



BAPTISM SERVICE

“WHAT DOES THE DAY OF BAPTISM LOOK LIKE?”

The pastor who will be baptizing you can give you a more specific idea of the order of service. However, generally speaking, you would change in one of the washrooms when you arrive at the church and then proceed to the chapel and sit in the pews reserved for you until it is time for the ceremony to begin.

You will participate in the service until it is time to begin the ceremony. At this time an usher will escort you into the hallway to the left of the altar. You will be prompted by an usher when it is time for you to enter the altar. The usher will prompt you again when it is time to enter the baptism tank.

The tank is under the stage so you will be walking across the left side of the altar towards the tank and then down about four steps into the tank. These steps can be slippery so the pastor who is baptizing you will hold your hand as you come down the stairs if you like.

The pastor will say a few words, you will give a brief testimony and then the pastor will baptize you. When you come up out of the water there will be a lot of clapping, hooting and hollering as the church family expresses their excitement and joy at your step of faith!

As you climb out of the tank an usher will be there to offer you a hand as you climb up the stairs and will hand you your towel (don't forget to bring one). You'll exit the altar area the same way you came in and will proceed to one of the washrooms to change. Once you have changed you will rejoin your family and friends in the chapel.



OTHER FAQ'S



Q - CAN FAMILIES BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

A - 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. Younger children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Children's Ministry Pastor for a pre-baptism conversation. However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

Q - WHO SHOULD I INVITE?

A - You are free to invite anyone you would like to join in the celebration of this special day. Some people wonder if they should invite friends or family who do not attend a church, who don't believe in Jesus or who come from a different faith background. While only you can make that decision, we want you to know that we think it entirely appropriate to invite whoever is close to you regardless of their faith background. Who knows how God will use your testimony or the other words that are spoken during the service to impact their life!

Q - I DON'T THINK I CAN SPEAK IN PUBLIC. ARE THERE OTHER OPTIONS?

A - Sharing your story is part of the "public declaration" of your faith. However, you do not need to go into a lot of detail. If giving a personal testimony is preventing you from being baptized, talk to the pastor you meet with to find out other options available to share.

Q - WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

A - A towel, change of clothes, slippers, 1 or 2 plastic bags for your wet belongings, and your written testimony. We ask you not to wear printed t-shirts, cut off shirts, sleeveless shirts, or shorts above the knees. Please do not wear tight fitted clothing or clothing that may be too revealing when wet. Shoes, slippers or water shoes are not permitted in the baptismal tank.

Q - I THINK I AM READY TO GET BAPTIZED. WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?

Adults - Any staff Pastor

Youth and Young Adult - Youth Pastor

Grade 6 and Under - Children's Ministry Pastor or Director