

BAPTISM ORIENTATION @ PCC

1. *What is Baptism?*

A. Baptism is a symbolic expression of salvation.

The Greek word baptizo means, “to plunge, dip, immerse” something in water.

This is the commonly recognized and standard meaning of the term in ancient Greek literature both inside and outside of the bible.

2. *Historical Background of Baptism*

a. It did not originate with Christianity but with John the Baptist

Mark 1:5 “The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him [John]. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

Mark 1:10 “As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.” (Jesus was baptized by John at the beginning of His public ministry)

b. It was command by Jesus and carried out by his followers

Matthew 28:18-19 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 8:36 As they traveled along the road, they (Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch) came to some water and the Eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

c. It relates to our relationship with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Rom. 6:3-4 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Col. 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

3. *Symbolism of Baptism*

- passing through the waters of judgment safely
- dying and rising with Christ
- having our sins washed away
- our old life dying and new life arising

4. *Who should be Baptized?*

The pattern revealed at several places in the New Testament is that only those who gave a believable profession of faith were baptized. This view is often called "believer's baptism," since it is based on reasonable evidence of believing in Christ. Therefore, baptism is an outward sign of an inward faith in Jesus Christ.

5. *Biblical Passages on Baptism*

- Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
- Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- Acts 10:44-47 While Peter was speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished at the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."
- Acts 16:14-15 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house. "And she persuaded us.
- Acts 16:32-33 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that house of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

6. *Why be Baptized?*

a. Jesus and His Apostles commanded it.

Matt. 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

b. It is an outward sign of an inward faith and commitment to Jesus Christ

7. *Key Questions to ask to know if you are ready to be baptized?*

1. Am I a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do I believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father but through Him?
3. Do I desire to obey God in every area of my life?
4. If we were to conduct this service in the main area at my work or school, would I still go through with it?
5. Do my friends/family know I am doing this? Have I invited them?
6. Am I sure that getting baptized does not make God love me more nor secure my salvation?
7. Can I clearly state 1-3 main reasons why I want to be baptized?

If you answered yes to all of the above, congratulations, you are ready to be baptized!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DAY OF BAPTISM

A. PRIOR TO COMING

- i. INVITE: friends and family to witness your memorable and sacred commitment to God

B. WHAT SHOULD YOU WEAR & BRING

- i. MODEST: swimsuit/shorts and dark shirt, which will be covered by white t-shirt given to you by PCC upon arrival
- ii. TOWEL: we will provide a big white one, but you may want to bring another

C. ARRIVAL DETAILS

- i. EARLY CHECK IN: 30 minutes prior to your gathering come to the Choir Room (lower floor of Worship Center)
- ii. SIGN: the release form (which gives us permission to take video/pics) and return to us
- iii. T-SHIRT: pick up a white shirt to put on over your modest swimsuit/shorts/ dark shirt
- iv. NOTE THE ORDER: get the sheet that list the baptism lineup order
- v. GO CHANGE: in lower bathrooms (women) or upper bathroom (men) then find a seat anywhere you want in the worship center for the gathering. Take your things with you.

D. BAPTISM PROCEDURE

- i. LINE UP: After the message, you will be instructed to line up along the divider in a predetermined order
- ii. ENTERING IN: One by one during the worship songs, you will enter the baptismal tub with a pastor. Family and friends are welcome to come around the tub as you enter in.
- iii. QUESTION: You will be asked the following:
 1. *“Do you believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father except through him?”* The assumed answer is, *YES!*
- iv. KNEEL DOWN/LEAN BACK: You will kneel down on the ledge in the front of the tub, then gently be leaned backwards into the water as the pastor says, *“I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”*
- v. EXITING/PRAYED OVER: After you exit the tub, you will then head to your left to be prayed over by friends, family and or our pastoral team.

E. POST YOUR BAPTISM

- i. PLEASE CHANGE: After you have been prayed for, head back to your seat to get your things and then to either the lower bathrooms (women) or upper bathroom (men) to change.
- ii. TOWELS: return white towels to bins located outside the bathrooms
- iii. CERTIFICATE/PICTURES: within a 2 weeks you will receive a baptism certificate in the mail and a link to download pictures