



Bayside Baptist Church

Information Guide



Bayside Baptist Church
Water Baptism Guide

INTRODUCTION

Today we will study the ordinance of water baptism. The New Testament church has two ordinances: Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper. An ordinance is something ordained by God for us as believers to carry out.

This is a statement from The Baptist Faith and Message, "*Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Jesus Christ. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.*"(p.14)

I. WHY Should I Be Baptized?

Why do we do this?

A. I am not being baptized in order to:

1. To please my friends, my parents or my pastor. This is not about seeking man's approval
2. Because my church believes in it.
3. Not to fulfill tradition or follow a religious form.

B. I am being baptized:

1. Because Christ is my example
 - a) Matthew 3:13-17 – I identify with Him
 - b) I Peter 2:21 – Leaving us an example that we should follow in His footsteps.
2. Because Christ gave His command
 - a) Matthew 28:19-20 – I desire to obey Him in doing this

II. WHEN Should I Be Baptized?

A. I should not be baptized:

1. Before I have accepted Jesus as my Savior.
2. When I understand better.
3. When I feel I am ready.
4. When I am a better Christian.

B. I should be baptized:

1. When I have repented of my sin and received Jesus as my Savior. This is the first step before water baptism can be a significant experience. It is a testimony that Christ has changed by life.

- a) Matthew 3:5-9
- b) Acts 2:37-38
- c) Acts 8:36-38

2. As soon after my commitment as I have opportunity.

- a) Acts 2:41
- b) Acts 9:17-18

III. HOW Should I Be Baptized?

This important question relates to the method of baptism. We baptize by immersion which means going under the water. Consider these facts...

a. The Greek word “baptizo” translated into the English means “to immerse, dip or submerge”.

b. Jesus was immersed in His baptism. Matthew 3:16 says that after He was baptized, He “...went up immediately from the water...”

c. Immersion is the only method of baptism that properly identifies the believer with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It is a symbol or picture of what has happened to the believer. Read Romans 6:2-4 and Colossians 2:12.

d. The New Testament Church baptized by immersion. With the Ethiopian eunuch as described in Acts 8:36-38, it says that “they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.” It is clear that Philip took the Ethiopian into the water and immersed him. Immersion is not just another method of baptism or one of many choices. Immersion is a picture, an outward expression of faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

IV. By WHOSE Authority Should I Be Baptized? Matthew 28:19-20

A. **In the name of the Father** – He was the One who voiced His approval at His Son’s baptism. Matthew 3:17

B. **In the name of the Son** – He is the One whose sacrifice for our sins made our new life possible. Matthew 1:21

C. **In the name of the Holy Spirit** – He is the One whose power brings the work of regeneration and renewing in us. Titus 3:5

V. WHAT Should Baptism Mean To Me?

A. Baptism is not:

1. A conversion experience
2. The way of salvation
3. My ticket to heaven

B. Baptism is:

1. **A step of faith** – I Corinthians 15:1-4

In baptism I am expressing my faith in Christ: “I believe you died for me. I believe you have saved me from my sins.” We are seeking God’s approval, not man’s. Jesus received His Father’s approval when He was baptized in water.

2. **A step of obedience** – John 14:15

By obeying Christ’s command I am submitting to His authority and recognizing His right to be Lord of my life.

3. **A step of commitment** – Mark 8:34; Matthew 10:32

In baptism I am saying before God, my fellow believers, and the whole world, that I have made my choice; that my life from this day forward is committed to Jesus Christ.

4. **A public testimony** –

I have said “yes” to Christ and “no” to sin and the devil. I have decided to follow Jesus.

VI. WHAT Will Baptism Do For Me?

A. Water baptism will not:

1. Cleanse me from sin.
2. Make me a new person.
3. Give me eternal life.

B. Water baptism:

1. **Symbolizes** (shows or demonstrates) Romans 6:3-11.

It is a divine “object lesson” or “drama” picturing for me and for all witnesses the work which Christ has done for me and in me.

2. **Identifies.** Romans 6:6-11

It identifies me with Christ in His death and resurrection. I am saying, in effect, “I am crucified with Christ...” Galatians 3:20

3. **Signifies.** Romans 6:11-14

It signifies that what God’s Word says is true for all who receive Christ, is also true for me. The power of sin and Satan has been broken in my life and I can walk in newness of life in Him. If we let the reality of this truth grip us, our baptism can be an important step of victory for us.

4. **Seals.** Jude 24-25

Often after important victories in the lives of His people, God commanded them to erect memorial stones so they might never forget they were God’s children; committed to His care and keeping power. In the same way, the day of my baptism can be a memorial before God, sealing my commitment to Jesus Christ until the day of His return!

5. **Affirms.** Galatians 3:27-28

It affirms that we are united with God’s family. “I am a part. I no longer stand alone.” I recognize that no one is an island. I am complete only in Christ. Now I unashamedly confess that I belong to God’s family and I am united in faith with my brothers and sisters in God’s household.

