



WATER BAPTISM

essential information
for baptism candidates



**Chestnut Street
Baptist Church**

Water Baptism

Thank you for your interest in Water Baptism here at our Church. Jesus established water baptism as a commitment opportunity for believers when He gave the Great Commission message in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:16. Water Baptism is far more than a ritual or religious exercise. It is not only our personal choice, but it's a command for us as believers.

Water Baptism is a public, outward declaration that reflects a personal, inward faith. It associates the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and signifies the believer's death to the old life and his or her resurrection as a new creation in Christ (Romans 6:1–8; Colossians 2:12, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, it is important to carefully consider what the Bible says about it.

Why Be Baptized?

- **To follow Christ's example.** Jesus himself was baptized. He humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow. "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." Mark 1:9

- **Because Christ commanded it.** Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ. *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."* (John 14:15; James 2:17-18)

"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." Matthew 28:19-20

- **It shows you are a believer.** Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for the Christian life (Hebrews 6:1-2).

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved . . . ,"
Mark 16:16

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."
Acts 2:38

How Are We To Be Baptized?

As Jesus was baptized – by being immersed in water. The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word *baptizo* which means "to immerse or dip under water".

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The book of Acts shows us that this was the norm for every believer. For 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

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

"Those who accepted his message were baptized."
Acts 2:41

"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 8:12

Meaning of Water Baptism

- **Baptism is a visible act with a spiritual meaning.** It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead.

"...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

"...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." Colossians 2:12

- **It is a symbol of your new life in Christ.** We bury the 'old life' and we rise to walk in a 'new life'. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"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." Romans 6:4

- **Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one!** Baptism does not 'save' you; only your faith in Christ does that.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

- **In baptism, the believer has the triune name of the triune God placed upon them,** "Father, Son and Holy Spirit". The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the name of the Godhead (one God in three persons). The Gospels tell us to baptize believers "...into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Baptism confirms our position 'in Christ' and affirms the blessings of the Father on us as his children.

- **Baptism connects us to the "body of Christ",** his people in the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

"...For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body . . ." 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

When Are We To Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay. Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

*"Those who accepted his message were baptized."
Acts 2:41*

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and 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?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-39

Can a Family Be Baptized Together?

Yes! If each family member fully understands 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.

Will I Have To Say Anything?

The pastor will introduce you and will give you an opportunity to tell a bit of your story of how you came to this decision to be baptized. You will be briefly prayed for and then lowered just under the water.

I Would Like To Be Baptized. What Do I Do?

Contact the church office to set up a time to talk to the Pastor about baptism: (207) 236-2195 or csbccamden@gmail.com.

What Should I Bring?

- Bathing suit, plain t-shirt and long pants or shorts
(We encourage women to wear bathing suits with pants or shorts and a top over the suit)
- Towel
- Plastic bag or something similar to take home your wet clothes
- Hairbrush/comb and hair dryer (if desired)
- Change of clothes.

