

- **What should I bring to my baptism?**

Our church looks forward to your baptism on _____.

This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to view your public commitment to follow Jesus. In seeing your baptism they will begin their own process of understanding the meaning of salvation and trusting Jesus.

During this worship service please remember to bring the following things:

- Appropriate clothing to get wet in. Typically a dark colored shirt and shorts are fine. We also have a robe to go over your clothing.
- A change of clothing from the wet clothes.
- A towel and any other necessary items to return back to the worship service.

- **What should I do in the days after my baptism?**

After a person becomes a Christian and is baptized they should continue to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus. In addition, a Christian should seek to discover how God has gifted them to serve and spread the name of Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a spectator sport lived on the sidelines! Every believer is uniquely gifted. There are literally countless ways to serve in both the local church and community in building up the body of Christ and sharing him with others.

Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

One practical and specific application could be to share with someone(s) of your decision to trust Jesus and how he has impacted your life. Invite that person to trust Jesus in their own life.

GOD AND BAPTISM



GOT QUESTIONS?

Written by Pastor Dave Brown

Severna Park Baptist Church
506 Benfield Rd. Severna Park, MD 21146
www.spbcmd.com

This pamphlet is meant to help answer many of the questions you may have regarding baptism. Getting baptized is a significant action in a Christian's life. Therefore, we must understand the meaning of baptism.

Here are some of the questions people have:

- **What is the purpose of baptism?**

The purpose of baptism is to point to the gospel. Baptism does not "save" a person, only the gospel does! The gospel is Jesus Christ dying on the cross for sin and then raising from the dead three days later (*1 Corinthians 15:1-3*). When a person is baptized they are making a public declaration that they have believed and received the gospel into their life. It illustrates your death to sin and self (under the water) and rising to new life in Jesus Christ (out of the water).

- **Why should I be baptized?**

Christians should be baptized because Jesus demonstrated it and commanded it. Baptism is a matter of obedience in the Christian life.

Matthew 3:15-16a "Jesus replied, Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this [get baptized] to fulfill all righteousness. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water."

Matthew 28:19 "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"

- **Who should be baptized?**

Christians believe that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is sufficient for forgiveness of sin (salvation). If you have turned away (repented) from sin by receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior then you are ready to be baptized. Baptism can be compared to a wedding ring in the marriage relationship; it is a public/outward symbol pointing to a dynamic/personal relationship. In all, baptism does not make you a Christian, rather it shows you already believe in Jesus Christ.

- **When should I be baptized?**

A person should be baptized only after making a decision to trust Jesus Christ for salvation. The Christians in the New Testament affirm this pattern.

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

Acts 8:26-39 The Ethiopian was baptized only after understanding the good news about Jesus.

Acts 9:18 Paul was baptized after clearly understanding Jesus' identity and committing to the gospel.

Acts 10:47 Cornelius was baptized after believing the gospel and receiving the Holy Spirit.

- **Why immersion baptism over infant christening?**

The word used in the New Testament for baptism means to dip into, submerge or plunge. The simple meaning of the word calls for immersion. In addition, immersion best pictures the gospel, Jesus dying and buried (into the water) and then raising to new life (out of the water). A baptized person should understand this meaning. We have no set age limit for person wishing to be baptized except that they understand the meaning of baptism pointing to the gospel.

- **How do I begin the process of baptism at your church?**

The first thing you should do is notify one of our Elders of your decision to trust Jesus as your Lord & Savior. They will discuss this with you for any follow up if needed. Next, they will work with you to schedule a time within the church calendar for you to get baptized as soon as possible.

