

## The Importance of Being Baptized

### I. Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by **JESUS**.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”

**Mark 1:9 (NIV)**

2. Because Jesus **COMMANDS** it.

(Jesus said), “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.

**Matt. 28:19-20 (NIV)**

3. It demonstrates that I really am a **BELIEVER**.

“...many of the (people) who heard Him **believed** and were **baptized**.”

**Acts 18:8 (NIV)**

“We know that we have come to know Him if we **obey** His commands.”

**1 John 2:3 (NIV)**

### II. What Is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ’s **BURIAL** and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried and was raised from the dead on the third day.”

**1 Cor. 15:3-4 (NLT)**

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death.”

**Col. 2:12 (TEV)**

2. It illustrates my **NEW LIFE** as a Christian

“Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.”

**2 Cor. 5:17 (CEV)**

“**By our baptism, then, we were buried** with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was **raised** from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also **we might live a new life.**”

**Rom 6:4 (TEV)**

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

“For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.” **Ephesians 2:8 (TEV)**

### III. **Why Be Baptized by Immersion?**

1. Because **JESUS** was baptized that way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of water.”

**Matt. 3:16 (NIV)**

2. Every baptism in the **NEW TESTAMENT** was by immersion.

(Example) “... then both Philip and the (man) went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...”

**Acts 8:38-39 (NIV)**

The word “baptize” means to “**DIP UNDER** water.”

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

#### IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

1. Every person who has **BELIEVED** in Christ.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized...” **Acts 2:41 (NLT)**

“Simon himself **believed** and was **baptized**...” **Acts 8:13 (NIV)**

“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 (NIV)**

At Center Point Church, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “*baptism of confirmation*” for their children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Center Point Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

#### V. When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have **BELIEVED**.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number **that day**.” **Acts 2:41 (NIV)**

“So Philip began with this same Scripture and then used many others to tell him about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to a small body of water, and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! Why can’t I be baptized?’ ‘You can, Philip answered, ‘if you believe with all your heart.’ And the eunuch replied, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ He stopped the chariot, and they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.”

## **Acts 8:35-38 (LVG)**

There is no reason to delay. 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!”

### **What do I need to do to be baptized?**

From the church website, <https://www.go2centerpoint.com>, click on Events, look for the Water Baptism event and register! You can also register from the Church Center app, choose Water Baptism event and register.

1. Review the Water Baptism handout which will come with your confirmation email that you have successfully registered for the event.
2. Please download and fill out the Baptism Check In form and bring it with you on the Sunday you will be baptized.
3. Attend the pre-baptism meeting on the Sunday you are scheduled to be baptized.

### **Can my family be baptized together?**

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism! Each member to be baptized should register.

### **What should I wear when I am baptized?**

Please wear a dark shirt and dark shorts/pants that would not be “see through” when wet. It is important that you **BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL!**

### **Will I have to say anything?**

No. The pastor baptizing you will give you final instructions, prayer over you, and briefly lower you just under the water. You can then leave the baptistery, dry off, and watch the others. You will be provided a digital image of your baptism later. Make sure you fill out the questions on the Baptism Check In form to get your digital image. **We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.**