



BAPTISM AT THE CORNERSTONE

The Cornerstone Church - FamousGod.com

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Water baptism is an important step in Christian discipleship. Jesus commanded his apostles to “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

When a person turns from sin to Jesus Christ and trusts him as God and Savior, the next step is water baptism. Baptism comes after conversion because it’s a sign of God's saving work in our lives. In baptism, the gospel promises are made visibly rather than verbally.

The sign of baptism points to our spiritual union with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. This is explained in Romans 6.

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

We go under the water as a sign that God has released us from the power of sin, cleansing us from its guilt and shame. We come out of the water as a sign that God has given us new life.

The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith defines water baptism.

“Baptism ... is intended to be, to the person baptized, God’s sign or promise of fellowship with Christ in his death and resurrection; that is, a sign of his being ingrafted into Christ (Rom. 6:3, 4, 5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27), and forgiven of all his sins (Mk. 1:4; Acts 2:38, and 22:16). It also indicates that the baptized person has given himself up to God, through Jesus Christ, so that he may live and conduct himself in newness of life (Rom. 6:3, 4).”

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God (Acts 2:38; Mt. 3:6) and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, being willing to yield obedience to him (Acts 8:12, 36, 37, 38; 10:47, 48). It is because of the need for personal repentance and faith that we do not baptize infants.

HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

While there are Christian traditions in which believers are sprinkled with water, the Greek word *baptizo* actually means to immerse. In Judaism at the time of Jesus, it was common to immerse oneself in water as an act of cleansing and repentance.

The believer is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:16; Jn. 3:23; 4:1, 2; Mt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:38; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).

BAPTISM AT THE CORNERSTONE

Baptismal candidates answer three questions.

- Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who lived, died and rose again for you and your salvation?
- Do you believe that God has forgiven your sins and given you new life?
- Will you follow Jesus Christ as your Lord?

We encourage you to invite friends and family to witness your baptism. Here are some practical suggestions:

- Bring: Towel, change of clothes.
- Men: Wear swim shorts and dark T-shirt.
- Women: Wear swimsuit, shorts and dark T-shirt.

APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM

Please complete the following information form and return it to Peter Foxwell or send the information by email: peterfoxwell@gmail.com.

Your Full Name: _____

Street Address: _____ **Town:** _____

Zip: _____ **Cell phone:** (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

How long have you been part of the Cornerstone? _____

Describe your faith in Jesus. Who is Jesus and what has he done for your salvation?

Why do you want to be baptized?

I have read and understood “Baptism at the Cornerstone” and I am ready to make the baptismal promises:

Signed _____ **Date** _____