

# WHAT IS BAPTISM ALL ABOUT?

## The Meaning Of Baptism

- ♦ **Literally** – Baptism means “to dip”, “to immerse”, or “to sink.” The New Testament word is *baptizo* which was used of dipping a cloth into dye, dipping a pitcher into water, or dipping an object into wax. (Luke 16:24; John 13:26; Revelation 19:13)
- ♦ **Symbolically** – Baptism is symbolic of “identification”.

Type Of Baptism	Scripture	Identification
<b>Israel's baptism into Moses</b>	1 Corinthians 10:2	Identified with Moses
<b>John The Baptist's baptism</b>	Matthew 3:6,11	Identified with repentance of sin
<b>Jesus' baptism</b>	Matthew 3:13-16	Identified as the Messiah
<b>Holy Spirit's baptism</b>	1 Corinthians 12:13	Identifies with the Body of Christ (Church)
<b>Believer's baptism</b>	Romans 6:3-8	Identifies with death, burial and resurrection of Christ

## The Message Of Baptism

*A bride and groom wear wedding rings as public testimonies to identify themselves as married. The rings are not essential but is declarative of it. Similarly, the believer's baptism is like a wedding ring – not a requirement for salvation, but a public testimony of salvation.*

- ♦ **An Identification With Christ** – Romans 6 depicts how a the immersion of a believer is a picture of Jesus' death (vv. 3,5), burial (v.4) and resurrection (vv. 4,5,8)
- ♦ **A Public Testimony** – A believer's baptism a testimony to the world, family, friends and church that he/she has put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

## The Motive For Baptism

- ♦ **Baptism Is Not A Prerequisite For Salvation** - Salvation is a prerequisite for baptism (Acts 8:36-38). Salvation is by the grace of God through faith alone, not by works like baptism (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

- ♦ **Baptism Is Not For Infants** - Since infants are unable to comprehend the gospel of grace or place their faith in Christ, baptism would have no meaning for them. Some denominations see infant baptism as bestowing God's grace on them, but this is not a scriptural teaching. Others see infant baptism as a symbol of the parents dedication of the child to God. FBC has Baby Dedication Services when the parents dedicate themselves and their child to the Lord in a public declaration and prayer, but we do not practice infant baptism.
- ♦ **Baptism Is An Act Of Obedience To God's Command** - Acts 2:38 contains the Apostle Peter's command “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for [as a result of] the remission of sins.*” Matthew 28:18-20 commands the disciples to baptize others.
- ♦ **Baptism Is A Testimony Of Our Faith In Christ** - Scripture consistently places the testimony of baptism after the event of faith in Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 9:17-18; 10:47-48; 16:30-34; 18:8; 19:1-7; Galatians 3:26-27).

## The Method Of Baptism

- ♦ **Immersion** best depicts the literal meaning of the word. *Baptizo* literally means “to dip”. There are other specific Greek words for “pouring” (*ekcheo*) and “sprinkling” (*rhantizo*), but they are never used in the New Testament to refer to the practice of believer's baptism.
- ♦ **Immersion** best represents the examples of baptism in the Scriptures. Immersion was done by John the Baptist (John 3:23), Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:9-10) and Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8:38-39).
- ♦ **Immersion** best symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:3-8).
- ♦ **Immersion** best represents the practice in the early church. In early Christian writings, *The Shepherd of Hermas* (100 AD) says “So they go down into the water dead, and they come up alive.” *The Letter of Barnabas* (130 AD) describes baptism as “the water bath.” The earliest reference to any other mode of baptism is 150 AD (*The Didache*).

# WHAT SHALL I DO IF I WANT TO BAPTIZED AT FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH?

## Prerequisites:

1. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior
2. Understanding the purpose of the believer's baptism

## Preliminaries:

1. Inform one of the pastors of your desire to be baptized or sign up on the bulletin board for one of the scheduled baptismal services.
2. Fill out the baptismal questionnaire available in the church foyer. We can send you one at your request.
3. Attend a baptismal candidate meeting or meet with one of the pastors. At this meeting, you will be instructed on the biblical teaching of baptism and asked to share how you came to faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Please feel free to ask whatever questions you have about salvation, baptism and the spiritual life.
4. When you are confident about your salvation and your understanding about baptism, you will be approved for baptism and a baptismal service will be set up at your convenience.

## Preparation:

1. At the baptismal service, you will be asked to bring an extra change of clothes and a towel.
2. You will share your testimony of your salvation and your spiritual life in Christ to the congregation. If you wish, the pastor can read it for you.
3. At the time of the immersion, you will place one hand on your other bicep, pinch your nose with your free hand, and bend your knees as the pastor bends you backwards into the water.
4. Please wear appropriate attire into the baptismal tank, paying attention to avoid translucence when your clothes are wet.

## For More Information, Contact:

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