

Water baptism is a significant milestone in the life of every Christian.

At Logan Christian Fellowship, we believe that water baptism is a biblical teaching and sacred practice for true followers of Christ. Baptism is an important step of obedience in a believer's life as an outward acknowledgment of the salvation experience that has already taken place. And it represents the death of our old self, and mirrors the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:4 says, "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." (NIV)



If you have never been baptized or have recently committed your life to Christ, baptism is the next step. If you would like to water baptised, please speak with the pastoral leadership.

You will be in front of church members, family, and guests before being baptized as the pastor addresses everyone present as to the Scriptural meaning of Baptism.

Please be prepared to give a brief testimony of what God has done in your life.

Items to bring in preparation for baptism should include:

- Dark clothing (shorts/pants, T-shirt), women: a swim suit can be worn underneath
- A set of change of clothes after your baptism is complete
- Towel
- Additional items needed after baptism service, comb, brush, blow dryer, make up etc.

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INFORMATION

"For when you were baptised, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."

Colossians 2:12



Why be Baptised?

1. Because you want to follow Christ's example. Jesus himself was baptised. He was not a sinner, yet 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 baptised by John in the Jordan."* (Mark 1:9)

2. 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)
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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)

3. Because 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 baptised will be saved . . ." (Mark 16:16)

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

The Meaning of Baptism

1. 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" (1 Cor. 15:3,4)

"...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God" (Colossians 2:12)

2. It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. 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... we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Remember... 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 (Eph 2:8-9).

3. In baptism, the believer has the triune name of the triune God placed upon them, 'Father', 'Son' & '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 baptise believers: *"... into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19).

4. Baptism also 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 baptised by one Spirit into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

How are we to be Baptised

1. As Jesus was baptised – by being immersed in water. The word "baptise" comes from the Greek word *baptizo* which means "to immerse or dip under water". *"As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water."* (Matthew 3:16)

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

"...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38, 39)

Who should be Baptised?

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 baptised (Romans 6). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

"Those who accepted his message were baptised..." (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 baptised, both men and women." (Acts 8:12)

When are we to be Baptised?

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

"Those who accepted his message were baptised..." (Acts 2:41)

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him." (Acts 8:35-39)