
What should you know about believer's baptism?

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:19-20.

Baptism is important for the Christian:

Baptism demonstrates our obedience to Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* It's as simple as that. When we love Jesus Christ, we want to do what he says. Jesus Himself was totally obedient to the Father, and to fulfill all righteousness was baptized. The disciples were baptized. In Peter's first sermon after Pentecost he preached saying, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.”* (Acts 2:38)

Obedience to Jesus Christ is a privilege, a joy, and a duty. It is not important whether we think baptism is insignificant or unnecessary. The point is, Jesus Christ commanded us to be baptized.

Baptism is a testimony to others.

Baptism is a testimony of our conversion to Jesus Christ. The Biblical examples of baptism always demonstrate first a personal belief and commitment to Jesus Christ, and then baptism following as an outward testimony of that fact. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore, baptism is not necessary for salvation. However, salvation is necessary before baptism! In baptism, we are telling others that we are now Christians.

It is a testimony of the gospel story.

“You were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12). Every single baptism is a witness (an acting out) of the gospel story. Christ died and we are dead to sin through salvation; Christ was buried and we are burying our old sinful life; Christ has risen and we are raised to new life in Christ.

It is a testimony of our identification

The original Greek word *“baptidzo”* means literally to dip, to plunge, to place into a liquid. Just as a cloth placed into a vat of dye is “identified” with the dye, so in baptism one is identified completely with Jesus Christ. We have “put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).



We also identify with the church (the body of Jesus Christ), *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and were all made to drink of one Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Our baptism is a powerful testimony to others!

Baptism is a risk we take.

Biblical baptism brings a risk of *humiliation* to our egos. We must admit our sin and our need for Christ's salvation. We go through physical embarrassment as we are plunged into the water before witnesses.

Biblical baptism is a *risk of commitment*. Jesus said, *“So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 10:32-33). This is a great test of our discipleship. In demonstrating who is really Lord of our lives, some may reject us or not really understand. Commitment to Christ and obedience have always held that risk. It was no different for the apostles or the early Christians.

There is also the *risk of involvement* with God's people – the church. In baptism, one is declaring his/her participation in the body of Christ. There is mutual responsibility; the individual is responsible to submit to love the church, and the church is responsible to love and nurture the one baptized.

What should you Do?

Have you received Christ personally as your Lord and Savior?

First and foremost, be sure to investigate who Jesus Christ is and receive Him as your personal Savior and as Lord of your life.

Are you a believer who has never been Biblically baptized?

Decide to obey Christ. Do something about it today. Speak to one of the pastors or one of the elders, and plan to follow Christ in the waters of baptism.

Believer's baptism is held often at FBC and is scheduled upon the request of those desiring to be baptized.

Are you a believer who has been Biblically baptized?

Reconsider and remember the commitment and testimony of your baptism.

Pass on to others what the Bible says about baptism, especially to your children or others you have led to Christ.

Personally adopt those who are baptized into the fellowship of FBC. Encourage them to live faithfully for the Lord.

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