



Baptism @ CBC

What is baptism?

The Baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Baptism is a public profession of an internal commitment to God; it is a declaration of a covenant relationship and commitment to Christ. Baptism is a form of worship and a corporate celebration. Baptism is symbolic of our past sins being washed away, is something that we are called to as believers, and is an incredible experience for the believer (you!).

Why get baptized?

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

One of the last conversations with Jesus' recorded in Scripture, Jesus calls us as disciples to experience baptism as an expression of our faith and as an act of worship. It's a celebration and a ceremony of recognition of Christ in our lives.

What do I need to wear?

We ask that you wear appropriate shorts and undergarments. You'll want to bring a towel and a change of clothes. And we provide a "Next Step" shirt for you to have and wear during baptism as a gift and reminder of your commitment.

Where will I be baptized?

You will be baptized during one of our Celebration Services unless other arrangements are made or we are hosting a special service. We will be up on the stage and will invite everyone being baptized to join me one at a time up on stage.

How does it work?

At Country Bible Church we practice baptism by immersion (going under water and coming up out of the water). There is no "right way" to be baptized. We practice water baptism because it is consistent with Scripture and it is what Jesus, himself, experienced.

When you're baptized at Country Bible Church, the pastor will ask a few questions: *What is your name?; Have you surrendered to and do you recognize Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?; Is baptism a public declaration of a personal commitment that you're making today?*

You will answer the questions and at the end of these questions or declarations of baptism the pastor will acknowledge your response. The pastor will then ask you to cross your arms (right hand over your face, pinching your nose with your left hand grabbing your right bicep). The pastor will then baptize you according to Scripture and the other person in the tank will help you lay back into the water and come up. After you have emerged from the water we will celebrate publicly.

If I was baptized as a kid, do I need to do it again?

This is one of our favorite questions of all time...seriously. Here's the deal, baptism or dedication as an infant or child was/is really more for your parents and guardians and god-parents and those who have committed to raising you in the Lord. The age of accountability throughout Scripture is 13 years old. It's pretty clear that baptism is a decision and declaration that is to be made by the believer once they've committed their lives to Christ. If you were baptized as a baby or a child, this one's for you (you're making the decision and not someone for you). That said, the answer is also "no". You don't need to be baptized again as it's not a matter of salvation but as an act of worship and obedience. It's up to you and God.

Do I need to be baptized to be saved?

No! Baptism is not a requirement for salvation. Getting wet in front of a group of people won't save anyone. That said, a fully-devoted follower of Jesus desires to honor God in every area and one of Christ's decrees for us as a Christian is to experience the expression of worship through baptism. That, and it's an incredible way to worship God while sharing and celebrating your commitment in community with others!