THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by Christ.
"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commanded it.
"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.
"...many of the Corinthians who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8
"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." I John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He was raised up on the third day." I Cor. 15:3-4
"Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." Col. 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*!"* *2* Cor. 5:17
"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." Rom. 6:4
"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9

Baptism doesn't make you a believer-it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring-it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.
"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(Example) "*And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing*." Acts 8:38-39

3. The word "baptize" means "to immerse under water."
The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water".

4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.
The founders of denominations agree:
Martin Luther..."I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."
John Calvin..."The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."
John Wesley..."Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has accepted Christ.
*"Those who **accepted** His message were **baptized**..."* Acts 2:41
*"Simon himself **believed** and was **baptized**..."* Acts 8:13
*"But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the Good News of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women."* Acts 8:12

At PAC, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. To read more about our stance on infant baptism, check out "Infant Baptism" document on our website under Home/About Us, Files and Forms.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed!

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." Acts 2:41
"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is

water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are *"perfect,"* you'll never feel *"good enough"*!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I. CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

II. WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

We recommend wearing dark clothes that aren't see-through, with a swimsuit underneath.

III. WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

IV. WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING BEFORE I GET BAPTIZED?

Each person being baptized will give a brief, 2-3 minute testimony in front of the congregation before being baptized. If this makes you nervous, don't worry! We've given you some instructions in the following section to help you verbalize your testimony and take some of the stress away.

PREPARING A TESTIMONIAL

A basic testimony is structured in 4 parts:

1. Before I received Christ, I lived and thought this way...
2. How I received Christ...
3. After I received Christ, these changes took place...
4. A pertinent or favorite verse that summarizes my desire to live for Christ now...

Some helpful questions to ask yourself:

1. Is there a theme around which I could develop my testimony?

God's love	God's forgiveness	Freedom from fear of living
Peace of mind	Fulfillment	Freedom from fear of dying
Purpose for life	Assurance of eternal life	Freedom from fear of others
Loneliness	Intellectual questions	Brokenness from life's circumstances

2. How would I explain my testimony if I were having a one-on-one conversation with a friend?

3. What are some elements of my testimony that others might be able to relate to?

If you have any questions or need help with your testimony, don’t hesitate to ask us!

TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

This is purely for your benefit, to help you articulate your testimony.
You don't need to use this if you don't want to.

Before I received Christ, I lived and thought this way:

How I received Christ:

After I received Christ, these changes took place:

A pertinent or favorite verse that summarizes my desire to live for Christ now:

BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Please fill out this sheet and turn it in to the PAC office to complete your baptism registration!

☐ I'm ready to be baptized!

☐ I would like to set up an appointment to talk more about baptism. (If this box is checked, we'll contact you to schedule an appointment.)

Please print out the way you would like your name to be displayed on your baptism certificate:

Any other questions/comments:

Name: _____ Date: _____