



BAPTISM AT CREEKSIDE

HOW WE ARE BAPTIZED

In the Old Testament there were many ceremonial uses of water. These symbolized inner cleansing from sin after the analogy of the outward washing of the body with water. In keeping with this ancient Jewish usage, John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, came baptizing with water those who repented of their sins. In this way he prepared for the coming of the Messiah. In like manner, Jesus, after He rose from the dead, commanded His disciples to baptize their converts into the name of the triune God whom Christians worship (the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit).

Most scholars agree that this ordinance of Christian baptism was performed by plunging a person under water and then lifting him out of it. Our English word “baptize” comes from the New Testament Greek word “baptizo”. “Baptizo” generally means to immerse, dip, or sink. It was used to describe the sinking of ships or the dipping of cloth in and out of dye vats.

Baptism is administered by an authorized representative of the church through immersion in water.

Matthew 3:6 *“They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.”*

Matthew 3:11 *“...I baptize you with water....”*

Matthew 3:16 *“And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water....”*

John 1:31 *“...I came baptizing in water.”*

Acts 1:5 *“For John baptized with water.”*

Acts 8:38 *“...they both went down into the water....”*

THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BAPTISM

Since baptism symbolizes the truth that our sins have been forgiven and that the believer now enjoys the applied benefits of Jesus’ death and resurrection, Christians believe that only those who are truly united to Christ by faith should be baptized. Baptism is an act of identification with Jesus Christ as one’s personal savior and lord.

There is no salvation in water baptism. But, a person is baptized because he has been saved. In this sense, baptism is a public confession of one's salvation experience.

The examples of the New Testament are clear that the person being baptized always understood and believed the Gospel. Believer's water baptism then refers to people who are able to personally respond to the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19 *"...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."*

Mark 16:16 *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved..."*

Acts 2:41 *"...those who had received His word were baptized..."*

Acts 8:12 *"When they believed Philip preaching the good news about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike."*

Acts 8:13 *"Simon himself believed, and after being baptized..."*

Acts 8:36,37 *"See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized? If you believe with all your heart, you may."*

Acts 16:14,15 *"The Lord opened her heart....and when she was baptized..."*

Acts 16:32,33 *"They spoke the word of the Lord to him....and he was baptized at once..."*

Acts 18:8 *"Cripus....believed in the Lord....and many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized."*

Acts 19:5 *"On hearing this, they were baptized..."*

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

The significance of one being immersed in water is a picture of the death and burial of Jesus. The raising up of the body from the water pictures the resurrection of Jesus.

When a believer is baptized it symbolizes that a person has died to their old life and that he/she has been resurrected (given new life by God) into newness of life in Jesus. The believer's water baptism is a public testimony to the fact that his/her salvation is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The believer's water baptism is an identification with Christians for baptism identifies a new believer with other believers in the Christian life as fellow-members of the Body of Christ. The believer's water baptism is an act of separation, for the Christian clearly indicates that he/she desires to leave the ways of the world and live fully in the life that Jesus has provided for His glory.

Matthew 28:19,20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you..."*

- Romans 6:3,4 *“All....who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death....as Christ was raised from the dead....we too might walk in newness of life.”*
- Galatians 3:27 *“For all of you who were baptized into Christ clothed yourselves with Christ.”*
- Colossians 2:12 *“Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

ABOUT THE BAPTISM SERVICE....

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

- Swimming suit (one piece)
- White shirt (a “T” shirt is okay)
- White handkerchief - to cover your nose
- Shoes that you can use in the water
- Towel (you are going to get wet)
- Toiletries (comb, etc.)

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE?

- Prayerfully
- Be prepared to share your testimony (2 minutes maximum - its okay to write it out)
- Invite your friends and family

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

- Meet ½ hour prior to the Service of Worship (9:30 a.m.) to discuss last minute details.
- 15 minutes before the service you should change into your suit and put on your white shirt.
- The Service of Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. The service will include worship in singing and a message. Following the message each person coming to be baptized will be invited forward to share their testimony with the congregation.
- After the testimonies the congregation will be invited to move to the “baptism area” by the lake. The pastor will enter the water first. Each person being baptized will be individually invited by the pastor to enter the water when it is their turn.
- Once you have entered the water and are ready the pastor will take the handkerchief and place it over your nose and mouth (if necessary) - supporting your back with his other hand. The pastor will bend you backwards into the water until you are submerged. Then the pastor will help you to stand-up straight again. While being submerged the pastor will be saying, *“Upon your profession of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, (name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*
- Remember, do not breathe while you are being submerged. Also, try to bend at the knees. If you do not bend backwards keeping your feet on the lake bottom you may float away.
- After you are baptized you will exit the water and the next candidate will be invited to come for baptism.



CREEKSIDE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH BAPTISM APPLICATION

NAME _____
(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL)

ADDRESS _____
(STREET) (APARTMENT NUMBER)

(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE)

PHONE () _____ - _____ **(HOME)**

PHONE () _____ - _____ **(WORK)**

EMAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____ / ____ / ____ **(MONTH / DAY / YEAR)**

PLACE OF BIRTH _____
(CITY) (STATE / COUNTRY)

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE HOW YOU CAME TO SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE SEEKING TO BE BAPTIZED.