

KINGSVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
WATER BAPTISM

BAPTISM OVERVIEW

People often have questions regarding water baptism. *Why should I be baptized? I've already been baptized; do I have to do it again? Do I have to be baptized to be saved?* Answers to these commonly asked questions are found in the Bible.

We believe it clearly teaches us that baptism is the first step of obedience after making a commitment to Christ. Baptism allows a Christ-follower to communicate to the world their heart-felt commitment to Christ. It's not that baptism "saves" us on its own, only our faith in Christ does that. Actually, water baptism is much like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment we make in our heart.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT BAPTISM

1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

A) It points to the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." [1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4]

"Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ." [COLOSSIANS 2:12]

B) It characterizes my new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" [2 CORINTHIANS 5:17]

"That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus." [ROMANS 6:3-4]

2. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

A) Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." [MATTHEW 3:16]

B) Baptisms in the Bible were by immersion.

"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." [ACTS 8:38-39]

The word Baptize means "**To dip under water**"

The Greek work Baptizo means "**To immerse or dip under water**".

It best symbolized a burial and resurrection!

3. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

A) Every person who has believed in Christ.

"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized..." [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 baptized, both men and women." [ACTS 8:12]

B) Those who are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism.

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 is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was for those old enough to believe in and publicly confess their personal commitment to Christ.

4. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

A) As soon as you have believed. 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"!

"Those who accepted his message were baptized...that day!" [ACTS 2:41]

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." [ACTS 8:35-38]

5. CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized together. It's 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.

6. WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS DURING THE BAPTISM?

After Pastor Jeff briefly explains the meaning of baptism to the congregation, you will wait at the edge of the tank for your turn to be baptized. Pastor Jeff will introduce you, ask you a few questions, and then briefly lower you just under the water, pronouncing you baptized on your way up! You can then leave the tank, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism certificate. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

7. WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Women should wear shorts and a top which will preserve modesty. Men may wear a swimsuit and t-shirt. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothing. We provide baptism gowns and changing rooms.



WATER BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM

Water baptism is the public act of being immersed in water as a statement of faith in Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. It is also a declaration that we have joined the body of Christ. Jesus commanded us to be baptized (Matt. 8:18-20; Mark 16:15); the early church practiced water baptism (Acts 2:38-41; 8:12-16; 9:18; 10: 47; 19:1-5) and continues to do so right up to today.

Water baptisms have taken on special significance at KINGSVIEW. Our entire congregation joins in worship and celebration with those being baptized. It is a powerful expression of community!

Completed applications should be returned to an usher, or the church office.

Please print clearly and ensure ALL questions are answered.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Age: Elementary Junior High High School 18-25 26-39 40-59 60+

When did you enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? _____

How long have you been attending KINGSVIEW? _____

Why have you chosen to be baptized now? _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____