

Baptism at Genesis

What is the meaning of Baptism?

It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." — 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."
— Colossians 2:12

It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

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 make in your heart.

"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

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!" — Romans 6:4

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." — Ephesians 2:8,9

What does it look like to be baptized?

We baptize by being completely submersed in water.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." — Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was done by submersion in water, known as immersion as well.

(Example) "...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 word baptize means "to immerse or dip under water".

The burial and resurrection of Jesus are best symbolized by baptism by immersion!

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

"Those who believe and 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... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." — Acts 8:12

What about infants and babies?

At Genesis, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. At Genesis we offer baby dedications for parents who are wanting to give thanks for their child and dedicate themselves toward the purpose of raising their child in a way that pleases God.

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have believed.

"Those who believe...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

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"!

Can my family and friends be baptized together?

Yes! If each person 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 or group tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on others to join you. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Women should wear shorts and a top or a swimsuit. Men may wear shorts, t-shirts or a swimsuit. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

Will I have anything to say?

At the beginning of the service, one of the pastors will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait in the water for your turn to be baptized. You will be introduced and asked if you have decided to follow Jesus with all of your heart, mind and strength and once you answer "I have" we will briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the water, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will receive your baptism certificate. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism. You can have anyone baptize you who is already a follower of Jesus. We recommend having someone who played a part of your choosing to follow Jesus. If you don't have anyone specific one of the Genesis pastors will baptize you.

What do I do if I want to be baptized at Genesis?

E-mail Beau McCarthy immediately at bmccarthy@genesisthechurch.org to sign up for the next baptism.