

ANTIOCH COMMUNITY CHURCH



Celebrating New Beginnings

Taking the NEXT STEP in your journey
Answering the What and the Why

Water Baptism

[What it is – What it aint!]

❖ What it is....

- ✓ A declaration that Jesus was dead, buried & resurrected...
that everyone who believes might have eternal life!
- ✓ A declaration to the world that you love Jesus!
- ✓ A declaration that you are now following Jesus!
- ✓ A declaration that Jesus has changed you on the inside!
- ✓ A declaration that you want others to hold you to your commitment to Jesus!
- ✓ An act of obedience to Jesus' command to be baptized.
- ✓ A "funeral service" for the "old you" and a celebration of the new you!

❖ What it aint...

- X A way to have your sins washed away.
- X A free bath!
- X A way to become more intimate with Jesus.
- X A way for God to overlook your past.
- X A chance to practice holding your breath under water
- X Something you decide to do because others are doing it
- X A religious ritual that some dude made up during swim class

WATER BAPTISM

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY **CHRIST**.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” Mark 1:9

2. BECAUSE CHRIST **COMMANDS** IT.

*“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all the people everywhere and **make them my disciples, baptize them** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then **teach them** to obey everything I have commanded you.’”* Matt. 28:10-20

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A **BELIEVER**.

*“...many of the people who heard Him believed and were **baptized**.”* Acts 18:8

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S **BURIAL** AND RESURRECTION.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4

*“For when you were **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.”* Col. 2:12

2. IT ILLUSTRATES 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.” Rom. 6:4

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.

"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

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

BECAUSE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

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

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE WAS BY IMMERSION.

(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 8:39-39

THE WORD "BAPTIZE" MEANS TO DIP UNDER WATER.

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

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 **BELIEVED** IN CHRIST.

*“Those **who believed** 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*

At REDLINE, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Note: Please do NOT get water baptized out of pressure from others or to simply fulfill the requirements of church membership. Water baptism is not a ritual to be performed but it MUST be a response to your relationship with Jesus and an act of obedience to Him.

At REDLINE, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED? AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

“Those who believed...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 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. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Minister of Children for a pre-baptism conversation.

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.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Both men and women should wear clothing that is modest and cannot be seen through when wet. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. Later you will receive your Certificate of Baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism!

Congratulations on considering baptism, it is one of the most important decisions which you can make. ***Please ensure that you have read about Baptism prior to completion of this form.*** If there is anything you do not fully understand then please do not hesitate to speak with one of the ministers. We are quite happy to arrange to speak with you prior to the service to talk through any questions which you may have.

General Information:

Please return this form to the church office one week prior to Baptism

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Birthday: _____

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trust Him for salvation?

Yes or No: _____

When: _____ Where: _____

2. Have you completed "Join the Fam" Membership Class?

Yes or No: _____ Date Completed: _____

I would like to attend the next available class. _____

I am not interested at this time. _____

3. Are you interested in the "First Steps" class for new or renewed believers?

I am interested and would like more info. _____

I am not interested at this time. _____

_____ *(please sign)*

I have read the packet provided about Baptism and fully understand my decision in being baptized as a follower of Jesus Christ.