

# Believers Baptism

We are so glad you are interested in being baptized. Baptism is the outward expression of an inward decision you made to follow Jesus as Lord. The Foundations Family would love to be part of your baptism and sharing your decision to go public with your faith!

The common meaning of the Greek word *baptizo* came from the textile industry. The process to dye fabric required the cloth to be completely submersed in the dye; taking on the color of the dye. The cloth was then identified with the dye/pigment. Similarly, when someone is baptized they are identifying with Jesus Christ. Just as a wedding ring is an outward identifier and expression of a marriage commitment, baptism is an outward expression of a commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

## **Am I spiritually ready for Baptism?**

If you have made a commitment to follow Christ as your savior and the leader of your life, then Scripture demonstrates that baptism is an important next step for you. Celebrate your decision to follow Jesus and your relationship with Christ with your community of believers, friends, family, and others who have decided to declare what Christ has done for them and what he means to you.

Believers (followers of Jesus) are those who have realized that their sins have separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through their own good works or religious activity. They acknowledge that Jesus Christ's death on the cross was for their sins and His resurrection is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his/her salvation. If you have come to this point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized. *\*If you have any questions, please talk with one of the pastors.*

## **What is the biblical basis for Baptism?**

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands His followers, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Baptism does not provide salvation for an individual, but rather serves to identify publicly the individual as a follower of Christ. Acts 2:38 says, "repent and be baptized." An individual is called to repent of their sin *and then* be baptized – the emphasis on repentance (lit. act of changing one's mind) first. In passages such as Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47–48, the act of baptism follows an individual's decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. In Romans 6:1–11, the apostle Paul describes the immersion of baptism as a means through which the believer identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ: Going under the water represents Christ's death—and a believer's death to sin; coming out of the water illustrates His resurrection -- and the believer's new life in Christ.

Foundations follows the New Testament model of baptism – those who make a decision to follow Jesus as Lord, in an act of obedience, are baptized. Baptism is NOT a prerequisite or requirement for salvation. It is simply identifying publicly with Jesus Christ.

### **Does Foundations Church baptize infants?**

Foundations believes the purpose of baptism is for an individual to publicly identify a follower of Jesus Christ. You may be asking yourself, “What if I was baptized as a baby?” In the New Testament, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told His disciples to welcome them. But He did not baptize them, and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. We see in the Bible that baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation. Infants and young children are not able to make this important decision.

If you were baptized as an infant/child, it was the intent of your parents that you would one day be a follower of Jesus Christ. Your choosing to be baptized as an adult can be viewed as the fulfillment of your parents’ wishes. It in no way repudiates the baptism you received as a child.

## **Steps to be baptized at Foundations?**

- 1. Register & Attend an Orientation** Register at: [foundationschurch.org/baptism/](http://foundationschurch.org/baptism/)
  - a. Register at: [foundationschurch.org/baptism/](http://foundationschurch.org/baptism/)
  - b. After completing the class you will receive an email with a link to sign-up for the service you want to be baptized.
  
- 2. Day of Baptism**
  - a. Arrive 15-20 minutes prior to the service you registered for to check in. You will be given a t-shirt, and get final instructions about the service.
  - b. Women/girls should wear shorts/leggings along with the Foundations Baptism T-shirt. Men/boys should wear a swimsuit/shorts along with the Foundations Baptism T-shirt.
  - c. Please bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.
  
- 3. Your Story** - We encourage you to write down your personal story of your relationship with Jesus Christ and why you have decided to be baptized. Please see “Your Story” document on the Foundations Baptism website for guidelines to help write your story.
  
- 4. Celebrate & Invite:** This is a milestone in your faith journey with Jesus – we are honored you have allowed Foundations to be part of this day. We encourage you to invite family and friends to be a part of this day and celebrate with you.
  
- 5. Questions:** Please email [office@foundationschurch.org](mailto:office@foundationschurch.org) with any questions.