

BAPTISM THEOLOGY



celebration.church

CONTEXT:

For the 3rd Sunday of the Month:

1. Participants will have registered for this Baptism Orientation.
2. At the end of Orientation, they will sign the personal confession, provide testimony & sign up for campus/service baptism.
3. Walk away with 7-Day Devotional to prepare for baptism.

4th Sunday of the Month:

- Receive t-shirt
- Go through practical training
- Get baptized

OUTCOMES:

To ensure that each believer understands the following...

- My story/testimony
- The WHY for baptism
- WHAT baptism is
- WHEN we should be baptized
- The next steps on this salvation journey

TRAINING OUTLINE: 41 MIN TOTAL

40 min - Deliver Content

5 min - Close:

- Distribute 7-Day Devotional
- Sign personal confession
- Sign-up for baptism service/time
- Pray

**Through baptism, we publicly declare our faith in Jesus Christ - It doesn't save us, but it is a demonstration to people of the commitment we made (like a wedding ring provided as a symbol of covenant).*



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

5 minutes

- Take a brief moment to introduce yourself and welcome everyone to Baptism Orientation
- Introduce our Pastors Joe and Lori Champion and express that they would like to say congratulations
- Play video

MY STORY/TESTIMONY

- John 1:7 NASB

“He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through Him.”

- John 4:39 NASB

“Now from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the Word of the woman who testified...”

Our testimony is our story of what our life was like **before** Jesus, how we **encountered** Jesus and **life with** Jesus.

1. Who were you before Jesus?
2. “I have decided.” How did you encounter Jesus? What was the moment or process of your personal decision to follow/surrender to him?
3. Who We Are Now: Who are you today because of Jesus? What has life been like since that decision?

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

5-7 minutes

1. Jesus has commanded us to "... make **disciples**, baptizing them..."

- 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 follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Now is the best time to get used to obeying Jesus. Why? Because he is now LORD of our life. Sometimes we will be asked to do things we don't completely understand or aren't comfortable with, but as a follower of Christ, we are **surrendering** our will for His.

- This is our time to show in whom we have believed with confidence and joy!

- Matthew 10:32-33

"Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before people, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

2. To follow Jesus' **example**.

- Jesus began His ministry through baptism.

- Matthew 3:13-15 *"Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan, coming to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have the need to be baptized*

by You, and yet You are coming to me?" But Jesus, answering, said to him, "Allow it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him."

3. It is a very important step declaring one's **salvation**.

- Acts 2:38 *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

- Mark 16:16 *"The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved;"*

4. It demonstrates that I really am a **follower** of Christ & builds a **foundation** for following His instruction.

- Ephesians 2:8-10 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."*

- Taking this public step of faith will place a resolve and confidence within you that you are a Christian. By taking this step, it will also build a foundation for stepping boldly into future things that God will ask you to do.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

5-7 minutes

- A foundation of faith; it is to be built upon.
- It means: “to immerse; to dye a piece of cloth (by plunging the whole cloth into the dying solution and taking the color); to put into water/substance and be entirely submerged.

1. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. Baptism is a picture of what Christ has done for us.

2. It illustrates my identification as a Christian as a symbol of being raised from the grave.

BAPTISM = FULLY IMMERSSED

Matthew 3:13-17

“Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan, coming to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have the need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?” But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, and behold, a voice from the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

3. It illustrates our hope for future.

JUST AS HE WAS BURIED, JESUS WAS ALSO RAISED!

Romans 6:4–5

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin.”

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

3 minutes

1. After you have acknowledged you are a **sinner**, **repented** and **believed** in Christ.

This is not a decision anyone can make on your behalf. For example, perhaps you may have been sprinkled as a child and were taught that infant baptism is all that is necessary. This is not true.

This is more of a token or a statement that your parents committed you to God (which we do for families through Parent-Child Dedication). The truth; however, is that you must make the decision to receive Christ and the act of water baptism is meaningful only after you have made that personal commitment.

Acts 2:37–42 *“Now when they heard this (the teaching of Jesus), they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what are we to do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” ... So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 19:1-6 *“Now it happened that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said to him, “On the contrary, we have not even heard if there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.*

2. As soon as you have **believed** in Christ and without **fear**.

FOLLOW CHRIST IN WATER AFTER WE HAVE BELIEVED IN HIM.

Acts 8:35–38 *“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he ordered that the chariot stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.”*

As long as you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior and have repented of your sins, you can be baptized! So do it now! Don’t wait or delay.

CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ONLY THE AUDIENCE OF HEAVEN.

The devil will always try to use fear to keep you from stepping into all God has for you, but fear is never from God.

(2 Timothy 1:7) "Don't allow the devil to intimidate you as you seek to obey and serve God." Make up your mind right now that you will not be controlled by fear. You are going to be a person of faith! Take every step of obedience by faith and believe the promises of God.

Q&A TIME

10 minutes

- *Take time to answer any questions*
- *This is also a key time to explore who truly may/may not be ready to be baptized.*
- *Navigate this moment with discernment and grace.*
- *You may need to guide someone to a small group or a pastor to ensure they have made a salvation decision.*

WHAT IS NEXT ON THIS JOURNEY OF SALVATION?

4 minutes

1. Live with **others**, intent on one **purpose**...

This is now about journey in community to grow in your love for him, walk empowered by his Holy Spirit and live in service to him.

Philippians 2:1–18

“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

2. **SERVE** — GET PLUGGED IN!

This is the best time to join our Dream Team and learn to serve others in community. Why not join us for Connection Point?

Philippians 2:3-11

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by

becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

3. **Grow** — Baptism does not complete your salvation...it’s only just the start of growing in your relationship with Christ and His Church.

Philippians 2:12–18


“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining or arguments; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding firmly the word of life, so that on the day of Christ I can take pride because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.”

Growth is uncomfortable, but it produces fruit!

Psalms 92:12–14

“The righteous person will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, They will flourish in the courtyards of our God.

They will still yield fruit in advanced age; They will be full of sap and very green...”



We hope to see you grow on your journey and one of the best ways to do that is through community. We offer this through small groups. Get involved with Christian fellowship so that you have positive influences around you to help you make Godly decisions in life.

We also offer life skill classes and training at our Celebration Leadership Institute (CLI).

Either way, do not do this journey alone!

PERSONAL CONFESSION & NEXT STEPS

This will be presented to the candidates in two places:

- 1) Take time to read & review the personal confession.
- 2) Help candidates register for Baptism.



PERSONAL CONFESSION

Today I make a confession of my faith...

MY TESTIMONY:





PERSONAL CONFESSION

Today I make a confession of my faith...

I have repented of my sins. This means I have turned away from sin in every area of my life and freely chosen to follow Jesus Christ.

I have surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the second person of the Trinity, as my Lord and Savior. I acknowledge that He lived a sinless life and performed miracles. He died on the cross for all mankind, atoned for my sins through the shedding of His blood, was buried and resurrected on the third day to make a way for all, including me, to be in right relationship with God. I acknowledge that this salvation is a gracious gift from God and not a result of my good works or efforts. I have received His forgiveness for my sins and accepted His gift of salvation.

I have chosen to live in the freedom that He offers and make a commitment to turn from evil and live a life led by our Holy Spirit; yielding His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self control in and out of season.

I will make a public declaration of my faith in Jesus Christ and this decision by being fully immersed in water through baptism. I will follow His example and demonstrate to my family and friends that I am a Christian.

I understand that by being baptized, I embrace Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. I identify as a Christian and let my life have hope for the future.

I commit to the next steps in my walk with Christ and choose to grow in my knowledge and study of the Word (the Bible), in my relationship with God and in my relationship with the Church body. There is no turning back!

Signed: _____

Date: _____

