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Building Bridges to Greater Nashua and the World

Gate City Church Baptism Q&A



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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." — I 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 your 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
- "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

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.

"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 8:38-39

The word baptize means, "To dip under water". The Greek word baptize 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 work 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."

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



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- “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

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?

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

Will I have to say anything?

You will not be asked to say much. Before the service, you will meet with an elder who will explain the meaning of baptism, discuss any questions, and prepare you for the service. When you are baptized, the Pastor will introduce you, have someone pray for you, and ask you a simple question like, “Why are you being baptized?” Later you will receive your baptism certificate and a DVD of the baptism service. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

I am ready...When is the next baptism ceremony?

We schedule a baptism ceremony every couple of months. Baptisms are usually held during our Tent of Meeting service on Tuesday nights. On the night of the baptism, the baptism candidates are asked to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for a brief meeting and prayer. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ and want to follow the Lord in baptism, first, email us. We will contact you to discuss the details and prepare you for this special event.