



# BAPTISM

at  
Winnipeg  
Centre  
Vineyard

*"...when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death... For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."*

*Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)*



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# What is BAPTISM?

Water Baptism is an outward symbol of an internal reality. It is a public declaration of a person's intention to follow Jesus with their whole life.

In one way, getting baptised is similar to getting married. A wedding is a public declaration of two people's love for one another. In a similar way Baptism is a public declaration of a person's allegiance to Jesus. It's not the moment you decide to follow Jesus, but rather the moment you announce to the world that you love him and will love him for the rest of your life.

## What is BAPTISM all About?

### **Believing:**

Baptism shows that you believe Jesus is the Son of God and that he came to our world to rescue us and the whole earth from sin. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven from the wrong paths we've taken. He did this by living a sinless life, allowing himself to be crucified and then overcoming death by being resurrected. That's how much he loves us!

*"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us."*

*1 John 3:16a*

*"Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.*

*Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'*"

*Acts 2:38.*

## Obeying:

When we love and believe in Jesus we will want to do what he wants for us.

Jesus said "if you love me, obey my commandments" (John 14:15). One of those commandments was to "go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19).

## Repenting:

Repentance is best understood as turning around, or re-thinking. It is as if we were travelling down one road, and realized we needed to be going down another instead - we were driving to Birds Hill Park but really wanted to be going to Grand Beach. Turning around is what's needed at this point.

It's the same in life too. There are paths of life - bad roads, or bad ways of thinking that we must leave behind. If we're going on the wrong way, we must turn around and go the other way. Our wrong ways are called sins and turning around is called:

# Repenting!

What do you need to repent from?

*"If I confess my sins, God is faithful and just to forgive my sins and to clean me from all my wrong ways."*

*1 John 1:9*

## **Following:**

When we believe in Jesus we want to do the same things he did. Jesus was baptised by his cousin John the Baptist (Mark 1:9). So, we too are baptised.

We also follow the example set by the early church. We are all part of the unbroken chain of believing people. You'll be baptised by someone who was baptised... on throughout history to Jesus himself. We're all connected.

## **Telling:**

In Jesus' time rivers were busy places! People were there washing clothes, getting water and talking. This is the context in which people were baptised. So when someone was baptised everyone knew about it! Baptism is a public proclamation.



# What does BAPTISM Symbolize?

Baptism is the sign that we have chosen to live under the rule and reign of God in his kingdom. There's nothing magical about the water, but it does powerfully symbolize something that happens when we choose to follow Jesus.

Action	Symbol	What is happening?
Entering the water	Death	Leaving the past behind. Choosing to follow Jesus rather than our old self or the world.
Immersed in the water	Burial	Burying your old life. Putting it away forever.
Coming up out of the water	Resurrection	Born again into a new life of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Covered in water	Washing	Cleansing from our sins.
Being surrounded in prayer	United with Jesus	Part of the Body of Christ, welcoming into the family of God.

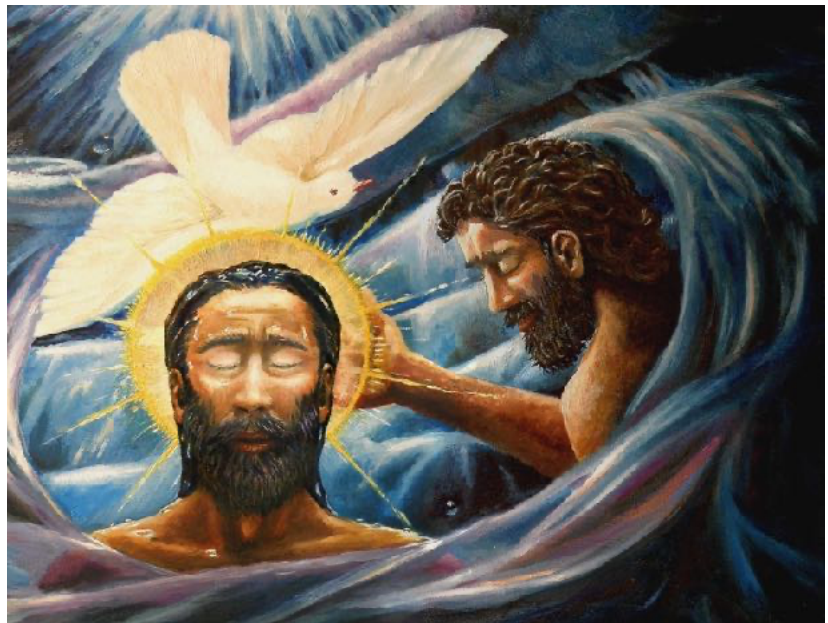
*"...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God..."*

*Colossians 2:12*

# What should I expect when I get BAPTISED?

We normally have a special baptism service celebration. If we're indoors we use a large tank of water placed on the stage. We've often done baptisms at Bird's Hill Park lake too. Those who are getting baptised will join the person doing the baptism in the water. They will ask you a few questions about your confession of faith (see below) and then dunk you under the water and pull you back up.

Someone will be available to help you out of the water and then people will gather around to pray for you. In the book of Acts people received the Holy Spirit by others praying for them. Even at Jesus' baptism, God sent the Holy Spirit to him in the form of a dove after his baptism. We will pray the same thing for you!



On a practical note, wear clothing that you don't mind getting wet, and that isn't see through when wet. Bring a dry change of clothes, a towel and something for your feet (like flip flops).

Getting baptised can be a chance to share a portion of your story. We will always use something like the following with those who are being baptised.

**Baptism Affirmations:**

When you are baptised you will be asked the following questions which are based in the Apostles Creed (see below):

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord and King, and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life and grace?

I Do!

Do you renounce Satan and all his works and all his ways?

I Do!

Do you confess your need for forgiveness of sins, and with a humble heart put your hope in God's mercy and your whole trust in Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

I Do!

With his help, will you seek to follow him, becoming more like him until you see him face to face?

I Will!

## **Baptism Affirmations alternate version:**

Elder: Do you renounce evil and commit your life to Jesus Christ?

Person: I do.

Elder: Do you believe in God the Father?

Person: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Elder: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Person: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Elder: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Person: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Elder: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

Person: I will, with God's help.

Elder: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

Person: I will, with God's help.

Elder: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Person: I will, with God's help.

### **The Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.



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