

TBC Baptism Q&A

Q) What is the purpose of baptism?

A) It's the opportunity for every genuine Child of God to be identified as a Follower of Christ. Some describe baptism as "an outward expression of an inward reality." Some focus on the fact that baptism is the first specific act of obedience / discipleship to which Jesus calls. And some are quick to point out that while this act is often met with affirming words in our culture, it is often met with persecution and martyrdom in many places in the world today.

Q) How do we baptize?

A) Through immersion. As a person is submerged under the water it is a picture of death & burial. As they are brought back up out of the water it is a picture of being raised to New Life (2 Cor 5:17, Gal 2:20)

Q) Who should be baptized?

A) Those who genuinely know the Lord and are ready to be identified with Him and His church by professing their allegiance to Him publicly. Some guidelines that we observe:

- We do not re-baptize folks who have already participated in "believer's baptism."
- Those who were dedicated, christened, or baptized as infants are eligible as we see this as an expression of your parent's faith and not your own.
- We ask that children who are 9 and under come and observe baptism until they turn 10, at which point they would be eligible for baptism. (We do recognize that there are many children 9 and under who have come to genuine faith. But it is often difficult to understand all that is motivating their desire for baptism until they are a bit older.)

Q) What are the steps to getting baptized here at TBC?

1. Come to a Baptism Information meeting or use the Baptism tab on our website and follow the directions there, and sign up for a short interview with a pastor & pick up the 2 forms: "Writing Your testimony" and "TBC Baptism Q&A" or download these from our website under the "Baptism" tab.
2. Put together your personal testimony in writing and send it to the pastor 24 hours prior to your appointment (pastoral email addresses can be found on our website).
3. Additionally, write out your Statement of Faith on an index card and bring it to the interview.
4. If the pastor feels that you understand the gospel, the purpose of baptism and are motivated to be baptized for the right reasons, then you will be invited to be baptized.
5. If the pastor feels that you are unclear in one of these areas, you will be invited to complete a short study called, "Assurance of Salvation," and then reschedule another interview with that pastor at our next baptism event.

Q) What will happen at baptism?

- Baptisms will all take place after 3rd service on the designated Sunday (around 12:30 PM) on the patio of Creekside Center
- You should bring a towel, a bathing suit (perhaps athletic shorts over the suit) to change into after church. You will be given a designated baptism T-shirt to wear into the water.
- One of the pastors will meet with all the candidates just prior to beginning and run through the order and remind everyone what will take place. Please gather in The Commons room in Creekside Center after you change into the clothes you will be baptized.
- You will step up to the microphone with the pastor baptizing you, and there **share your “statement/confession of faith”**
- You will enter the water, grasp the arm of the one baptizing you, then you will be asked, “Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation; and are you trusting in Him and Him alone?” Once you answer, “I have/am,” you will be baptized.

Note: We encourage one’s parents, grandparents or significant spiritual mentor to enter the water with you as you are baptized, as a show of support (if they desire). Additionally, you are free to have a man, other than a TBC Pastor, baptize you who has played a positive role in your faith journey. Please let the pastor know who that man will be during your interview.

Writing your Statement / Confession of Faith: (2-3 sentences)

There is not one right confession/statement of faith, but there are some things to keep in mind in writing it. It should be a clear and concise statement communicating that you have trusted /are trusting in Jesus and Him alone for your salvation. This is not when you “share your testimony,” though it is because you have a testimony and legitimate faith in Christ that you can make this statement of faith.

The following is an example of a confession/statement of faith found in Scripture:

But you, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
(1 Timothy 6:11-12)

The following is a contemporary example of a statement/confession of faith:

“Hello, my name is John Smith and I am here today to profess my faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I came to faith 3 years ago and have come to understand the importance of being identified with Jesus Christ and His church, so, I am excited to follow my Savior’s call in believer’s baptism.”