

Newmarket

Alliance

Baptism Manual

Church





SO WHAT CHECKING IT OUT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

If you are reading this booklet you are likely either considering baptism or have already decided to be baptized and that is a ***great thing!***

Whether you know a lot about baptism or very little, this booklet will help you learn more and prepare for your baptism

Along with the enclosed information, we encourage you to talk with a friend from NAC, your Small Group leader, an Elder or meet with one of our Pastors as you process the possibility of becoming baptized.

This is an exciting step in your spiritual journey and relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, so we hope to help you however we can!



IF EVERY PERSON WHO HAS ACCEPTED CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOUR SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

“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

See also: Acts 8:38, Acts 8:12, 28-38, Acts 9:18, Acts 16:14, 15a, Acts 18:8, Matthew 28:19

At NAC, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice infant baptism. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. At NAC we **dedicate** our children and reserve baptism for those who believe.



I BELIEVE WHY GET BAPTIZED ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

1) TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS

"At that time Jesus came to Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river" Mark 1:9

See also Matt. 3:13-15, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:29-34

2) BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" Matt. 28:19-20

3) THE EARLY CHURCH PRACTICED IT

Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:38-41

Men and women in Samaria were baptized – Acts 8:12-13

The Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:26-29

Saul's conversion – Acts 9:18

The Philippian jailer – Acts 16:33

4) IT PUBLICLY DEMONSTRATES YOUR NEW FIRST ALLEGIANCE

"...for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Galatians 3:27

HOW DOES IT SHOW THAT I AM A BELIEVER?

MEANING OF BAPTISM

1) IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again"
1 Cor. 15:3-4

"For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ" Col. 2:12

2) 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 Cor. 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!" Rom. 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 a commitment you made in your heart.

"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast".
Eph. 2:8-9



There is no reason to wait. 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 get there. If you wait until you FEEL “good enough”, or “mature enough”, believe me, it won’t happen. Take a look at what the Bible says...

“Those who believed... 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 is the Son of God’. So, they went down into the water and Philip baptized him”. Acts 8:35-38



DO I HAVE METHOD OF BAPTISM TO GET DUNKED?

There are different baptism methods that are practiced in Christian circles. We practice baptism by immersion because we believe that it is the Biblical model and best symbolizes the spiritual reality of life in Christ.

1) JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water".

Matt. 3:16

2) EVERY BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE WAS BY IMMERSION

"... 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 is one example

See also Acts 3:23, Mark 1:10.

These verse all seem to indicate that baptism in Scripture required enough water to fully immerse someone, including the act of going into the water and coming up out of it.

3) THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO IMMERSE IN WATER

The original Greek word ‘**baptizo**’ means, “*to immerse or dip under water*”.

4) IT SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

See Romans 6:3,4 and Col. 2:12

5) IT IS A NEW TESTAMENT EXPRESSION OF AN OLD TESTAMENT TRUTH

In the Old Testament circumcision represented identity with the family of God and His loving covenant with His bride (us). Baptism represents that new loving covenant. Aren’t you glad? (*Colossians 2:11-14*).

In a very real way, your baptism is Jesus declaring to the enemy of our souls that you are His chosen bride, that you have been rescued from the clutches of sin and Satan and that “You are mine” (*Isaiah 43:1*)





WHAT DO I HAVE TO PREPARE? TO SAY?

Don't get baptized because someone else is or because someone tells you to. Be certain of your own faith in Jesus and the conviction in your heart to be baptized. Romans 10:19 talks about the importance of a verbal confession of your faith in Jesus. This is sometimes called a "testimony". Before you are baptized you will have the privilege of making a brief statement about your commitment to Jesus. The following outline will help.

Things to do

- Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write. (*James 1:5-6*)

- Here's a helpful way of thinking of your story. Consider this three-point outline:

- Life **before** knowing Christ
- **How** you came to know Christ
- Life **after** you received Christ (i.e. the changes He has made.

What He means to you now). Emphasize this area in particular if you became a Christian as a small child.

- Give enough details to arouse interest. You will need to be wise and discerning regarding those details though. For instance, does your story verge into glorifying sin as opposed to glorifying Christ? Does your story disparage another person or church?

- You might want to use a favourite Bible verse to illustrate what you are saying.

- Edit and rewrite carefully until the final draft is reduced to 3-5 minutes.

- Emphasize most of all having received Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Remember...

- It's OK to be realistic. Becoming a Christian does not eliminate all the problems of life (in fact it creates a few) but rather enables you to face them with the confidence that Jesus is in you and with you guiding you all the way.

Things to avoid

- Preaching AT people. This is a testimony, not a “preach-i-mony”. Say “I” and “me”, not “you”.
- Being overly negative. Remember this is a celebration.

How to share your testimony

- Share your testimony with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
 - Speak clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice
 - Avoid, as much as possible, mannerisms such as rubbing your nose, swaying back and forth, clearing your throat and using “um’s” and “ah’s” (which again highlights the value of a written testimony)
 - Practice your testimony until it becomes natural, reflecting who you are. The more you practice the more the written testimony becomes a cue and not a crutch, allowing you to connect more emotionally with people listening.
 - When it's all said and done, remember it's normal to be nervous. Everyone is.
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WHAT DOES THE BAPTISM SERVICE DAY OF BAPTISM SERVICE LOOK LIKE?

A Pastor can give you a more specific idea of the order of service. No two baptisms are exactly alike, however, a typical baptism service might look like this;

You'll be asked to share your testimony on stage in an informal interview/stool format.

Later in the service you will be given a cue to go change in the washroom.

The tank is a simple 6-foot horse trough filled with very comfortably warm water. We'll ask you to sit down as the trough isn't deep enough or long enough to safely baptize from a standing position.

Consider this: We encourage you to invite around the baptismal tank your spiritual supporters; friends, family, small group etc. This can be a very meaningful and symbolic moment



The pastor may say a few words, and will likely ask you a few creedal questions like:

- ✓ **Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God and was crucified for your sins, was buried, resurrected and is coming again?**
- ✓ **Have you confessed your sins to Jesus, asked Him to forgive you and made Him the Lord of your life?**
- ✓ **Do you renounce Satan and all of His works?**
- ✓ **Is it your desire to follow and serve Jesus the rest of your life?**

Simply answer in the affirmative; “Yes”.

The Pastor will have shown you the best way to cross your arms and plug your nose so as to safely support you in the water.

The person baptizing you may say something like: ***“Upon this confession of your faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 29:19)***

You’ll be gently lowered beneath the water. Just allow yourself to be led, as opposed to forcing it yourself.

When you come up out of the water there will be a lot of clapping, hooting and hollering as the church family expresses their excitement and joy at your step of faith! It’s a real party.

As you climb out of the tank someone will be there to hand you your towel {don’t forget to bring one}. Often at NAC, that group of supporters assembled around you will briefly pray, encourage and speak prophetic truth over you.

You’ll change back into your clothes and rejoin your family and friends in the service.



OTHER FAQ'S

Q – CAN FAMILIES BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

A – Yes! If each family member 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 not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts undue pressure on them and delays your obedience.

Q – WHO SHOULD I INVITE?

A – You are free to invite anyone you would like to join in the celebration of this special day. Some people wonder if they should invite friends or family who do not attend a church, who don't believe in Jesus or who come from a different faith background. While only you can make that decision, we want you to know that we think it entirely appropriate to invite whoever is close to you regardless of their faith background. We have seen God use baptism testimonies to bring others to Christ. We also tend to be especially aware of guests on Baptism Sundays and often present a very guest-friendly gospel presentation.

Q – I DON'T THINK I CAN SPEAK IN PUBLIC. ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

A – Sharing your story is part of the “public declaration” of your faith. However, if giving a personal testimony is preventing you from being baptized, talk to us regarding a video testimony option

Q – WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

A – You should bring a change of clothes that include a dark T-shirt, board-type shorts or longer swim bottoms and a change of undergarments. Bring a towel and a brush. We have on site several white robes which easily slips over your clothes but you are under no obligation to wear a robe.

Q – CAN I GET SOMEONE TO PHOTOGRAPH OR VIDEO IT?

A – Sure you can BUT you should know that we will also record your testimony and baptism and we have the luxury of using the soundboard audio feed and a quality camera placed right at the front. Your baptism can be put on a PRIVATE YouTube link that you can re-watch or share with friends and family who may have missed the service.

Q – CAN I JUST GO WITH A FRIEND AND GET BAPTIZED IN A LAKE?

A- Sure... technically speaking (see the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian, although this is a bit of a Biblical anomaly) BUT in a time and culture where even our faith has become overly private and personal (“It’s just me and Jesus”) we forget that our faith was never meant to be lived out alone. Accepting salvation may be a personal decision but it was always meant to be a public declaration. Remember too that you are being baptized *into* something. Scripture using words like “Kingdom” and “Family”. The Church is an earthly picture or representative of that Kingdom and Family. So, in a very real way, you are also being baptized *into* a church body. Not including your church family also robs them of the chance to witness, encourage, disciple and celebrate along with you.



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