



coast
community church



baptism

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review this information and if you have any questions, feel free to contact us at cccgulfbreeze@gmail.com or 916-0346. We are happy to help.

BAPTISM SERVICE REGISTRATION

Please complete this document and return to:

Coast Community Church
P.O. Box 745 / Gulf Breeze, FL 32562

(Please Print Legibly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM

I. Why Should I Be Baptized?

A. To follow the example set by Christ.

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

B. Because Christ asked you to.

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

C. It demonstrates that you are a Believer.

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." 1John 2:3

II. What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

A. 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 we 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

B. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." 1 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

C. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian, only your faith in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a wedding ring, it's the outward sign of a commitment you made in your heart. (See Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

B. The word "baptize" means "to immerse under the water".

C. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection. (Romans 6:1-11)

D. The founders of the major denominations agree: *Martin Luther*, Founder of the Lutheran Denomination, "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin, Founder of the Presbyterian Denomination, "*The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the early church.*"

John Wesley, Founder of the Wesleyan and Methodist Denominations, "*Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the First Church.*"

IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ. A believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through their own good works and efforts. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your journey, then you are ready to be baptized.

Acts 2:41, 8:12-13

V. What About Young Children?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the candidate did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation. At Coast Community Church, we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true mean of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them into the Christian faith.

Some churches practice a "*baptism of confirmation*" for children. This custom began about three hundred years after the Bible was completed. This is a time when the parent pledges their commitment to raise their child according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not Christian baptism. Coast offers a similar opportunity for parents through our infant dedication services.

VI. What About Infant Baptism?

In the Bible we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But He did not baptize them, and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So it seems more biblical to wait until a personal decision to trust Christ has been made by the child, for if baptism signifies salvation, (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.

If you have not experienced believer's baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

VII. When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed.

"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 Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

VIII. Does This Mean It Has To Be Immediately?

No, what the Bible shows is that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. But, there is no reason to delay either. If you wait until you are '*good enough*', you will never feel ready for baptism.

IX. When Can I Be Baptized?

Baptisms at Coast are done as the need arises. They are generally on a Sunday after church, and are held either in the Sound or Bay, or in a swimming pool.

X. What Should I Wear?

Dress in clothes you don't mind getting wet! Women should probably wear a thick, darkly colored shirt of some kind because clothing can become transparent after getting wet. You will also want to bring a towel. Remember to bring a change of clothes to wear home.

XI. How Do I Register For Baptism?

A. To register for our next baptism service, simply complete the attached registration sheet and mail or return it to the church office. Please complete all the information.

B. Part of the registration procedure involves writing out your story describing how and when you decided to trust Christ alone for your salvation. (*In other words, your personal testimony.*) We feel this is helpful for you to recognize the difference Christ has made in your life.

C. Since baptism is a public profession of your faith in Christ, during the baptism we will share part of your testimony. These testimonies play a significant and meaningful role in the service. Believers are encouraged and given cause for celebration and seekers are challenged by the spiritual journey of others.

