

WHAT should I do if I want to be baptized at Doral Vineyard Church?

We typically have several baptisms each year. To be baptized in our church, all we ask is that you be willing to speak to a pastor, share your testimony of faith in Jesus, and receive some information on the significance and meaning of baptism.

When the big day comes, we encourage you to invite your friends and relatives to the event, since it is a wonderful opportunity to share with people you love.

If you are ready to be baptized here at Doral Vineyard, please fill out a welcome card with your contact information, check the box that reads: "I'm considering baptism" and drop it into one of the offering boxes.

WHAT WE BELIEVE about baptism

The first story we read in the gospels about Jesus as an adult is His baptism. The last thing Jesus said to His disciples before ascending into heaven was that they should go throughout the world making disciples and baptizing them. Clearly, baptism is a very important activity in the New Testament.

Baptism is also a subject that Christians don't all agree about. Here at Doral Vineyard, we view it as a secondary issue, allowing some room for disagreement between sincere believers. We have, nonetheless, tried to be faithful to what the Church has done historically and to what the Bible teaches on the subject of Baptism.



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how to experience the water
BAPTISM



Why should I be baptized?

① You don't need to be baptized to be saved. The Bible teaches that a person is saved by faith in Christ and the repentance from sin (Acts 2:38). In Luke 23, the thief on the cross recognized who Jesus was and reached out to Him, and Jesus promised him salvation that very day. The dying thief had no opportunity to be baptized.

② You do, however, need to be baptized to be obedient to Jesus. We are commanded to be baptized as a part of being His disciple (Matthew 28:19). Therefore, we don't get baptized "when we feel like it" or "when we get around to it" or "when we feel led by the Lord." Baptism is one of only two ordinances or rituals that Jesus commanded us to observe for all time—the other being communion.

③ Baptism is a public profession of your faith. Baptism is done before a group of people who witness your confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is not the only way we profess to be a follower of Jesus, but it is an important way.

④ Baptism symbolizes your cleansing from sin. It was an indication in the New Testament that a person had "repented or turned away from sin." The apostles often referred to the fact that believers were washed from their sins. Peter stated that the water in baptism symbolized not the cleansing of the body from dirt, but the cleansing of the conscience (1 Peter 3:21).

⑤ Baptism symbolizes your union with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. When you become a Christian, you die to sin and your old way of life, and you begin a whole new life.

Romans 6:8 states, "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him." The very act of baptism, being immersed in water and coming up out of water, is a picture of what happens to you spiritually.

How should I be baptized?

Doral Vineyard believes that people should be baptized by immersion, as opposed to sprinkling or pouring. The term "baptize" literally means to immerse. This is how people in the Bible were baptized. Also, immersion symbolizes what happens to you when you become a Christian.

When should I be baptized?

You should be baptized as soon as possible after personally trusting in Jesus for salvation and deciding to follow Him. Remember, you are not baptized in order to become a follower of Jesus. You are baptized because you ARE a follower of Jesus. It should not be put off. Doral Vineyard holds several baptisms each year. Stay connected for information about our next baptism.

Should I be re-baptized if I was baptized at another church?

If you decided to follow Jesus when you were baptized, as long as your previous church was a Christian church, then you do not need to be re-baptized. However, if your baptism was merely a ritual done prior to your coming to faith in Christ, or if your church was not committed to following Jesus, then we encourage you to be re-baptized in a church that strives to follow Him.

What if I was baptized as an infant?

Among committed followers of Jesus, there are varying perspectives on infant baptisms. Some denominations and traditions (such as Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic) baptize infants while others (such as Baptists) do not. Even among those who believe in paedobaptism, there are varying theologies as to the significance of the baptismal rites.

So maybe you were baptized as an infant—how should you view that baptism? First off, always show respect to your parents and their perspectives. Most of all, be grateful to God for the spiritual influence they have had on your life. However, our understanding of what the Bible teaches about baptism is that it is an action that follows conversion. So, if you have not been baptized since you made a decision to follow Jesus, we strongly recommend that you be baptized.

Can my children be baptized?

Absolutely, as long as they thoroughly understand what they are doing. We certainly believe that a young child can be saved, but the older a child is, the more fully they will understand and the more meaningful the baptism will be for them. If you have any questions, please contact the church office to speak to one of our pastors.