

WATER BAPTISM POLICY

What is water baptism?

Water baptism is an outward testimony of an inward experience. You publicly tell the world you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

There are several things you can and must do to make this experience one you will always remember.

Is it really important that I be baptized?

- In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
 Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to
 observe all that I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the ends of the
 age."
- Peter also made it clear in Acts 2:38 when he said, "Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." So, repent and be baptized, my friend, it is a command.
- In Romans 6:1-10 Paul tells us, "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once and for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God."

Prior to Baptism:

- 1. A serious commitment on the part of those seeking baptism for themselves
- 2. A commitment to respond to the vows made in baptism with regular and responsible participation in the life of the church.
- 3. Invite your family and friends both your saved and unsaved family and friends. Let them share the joy of this experience with you. If they are not saved, this will be a testimony to them of your commitment to follow the Lord. Perhaps seeing you make your commitment will encourage them to follow the Lord.
- 4. Prepare a short testimony of how you came to accept the Lord into your life; when it took place and how it happened.
- 5. Give the office your shirt size.
- 6. Now that you are baptized: What's Next?
 - a. Personal Devotional life: Our recommendation is to start with the book of John in the New Testament
 - b. Lifegroups: Community is essential for growth. Contact your Campus Life Group Coordinator to discuss what group will work best for you and get connected. Find your campus coordinator here: <u>Life Church | LIFE GROUPS (lifechurchin.com)</u>
 - c. Growth Track, a deeper commitment to the church: We offer the first two sessions online with a third session in person each month. The first two sessions can be completed here: Life Church (lifechurchin-grow.com). Inquire at your Welcome Center for the third in person session, or find one here: Life Church | GROWTH TRACK (lifechurchin.com)

The Day of Baptism

- 1. First, come to your water baptism prayerfully and expectantly. Come with joy in your heart.
- 2. Remember to wear dark clothing including length appropriate shorts and your baptism shirt. No shoes or socks should be worn during the baptism.
- 3. Be prepared to share a short testimony regarding your decision for baptism.
- 4. Bring a towel and a change of clothing to wear after your baptism.
- 5. Your Baptismal Certificate will be available for you after the service at the Welcome Center.
- 6. Family/friends are welcome to come near the baptismal to take pictures/video.

Congratulations! You have made a decision to take another step in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are excited for you. In closing, we want you to know that we care about you and are here to help with providing guidance and direction as your journey with the Lord continues. Contact your campus office for further assistance. Campus Directory: Life Church | CAMPUS DETAILS (lifechurchin.com)