

## The Church's Policy and Procedure for Baptism

1. If a child is being baptized, you will be contacted by Children's Ministry. If your youth would like to be baptized, the Youth Director will contact you. If you are an adult, someone from Adult Ministries will contact you.
2. It is recommended that each person being baptized share their testimony during the baptismal service in one of the following ways:
  - A. A verbal testimony at the time of baptism. A written statement of one's testimony is encouraged.
3. A written testimony to be placed in the bulletin or read by the Pastor. There are no age requirements concerning baptism. However, the Children's Ministry Director is concerned that children truly understand this significant event. Therefore, after speaking with the child, it will be the determination of the Children's Ministry Director if the child will be baptized.
4. There is a two session class that is to be taken before one is baptized.
5. The church will provide a baptismal gown, but please bring shorts and a solid tee-shirt to wear underneath them. Please bring a towel as well.

If you would like to be baptized or would like to learn more about believer's baptism, please contact the church office at 717-733-2526.



## Baptism

I have read the Baptismal Policy and desire to present myself to God.

Name to appear on Baptismal Certificate:  
(Please print exactly how certificate should read)

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Date of Birth (mm/dd/year)

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Name of significant person in your life who has influenced you the most in your Christian life

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Please return this portion of the brochure to the church office.



*Bible Fellowship Church  
of Ephrata*  
"Changing Lives that are  
Changing Lives"

PO Box 299  
491 Peach Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
717.733.2526

# BAPTISM



Baptismal Policy  
Bible Fellowship Church  
of Ephrata

## What is the Meaning of Baptism?

Water baptism, the immersion of the believer, is a visible testimony to the work of regeneration and a mark of identification and union with Christ. It has not saving or cleansing power, but it is the answer of a good conscience before God; hence, it should be administered only to those who have, by faith in Jesus Christ, realized the forgiveness of sins and possess the assurance of acceptance with God.

- A. The Greek word “baptizo” means “to dip” or “to immerse” or “to wash”. Water baptism is an **external symbol** of the internal washing and renewal that takes place when one believes in Christ (Titus 3:5)
- B. Baptism is also the **symbol of one’s union by faith** and identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection. (Rom. 6:3, 4)
- C. Baptism is a **public confession** of our new life in Christ and a sign of our obedience to His Word.

## Who Should Be Baptized?

- A. Jesus clearly taught...“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved...” (Mark 16:16)
- B. The people who heard Peter’s sermon on Pentecost asked: “Brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:38) Their response: “So then, those who had received His word were baptized...”
- C. But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” (Acts 8:12)

CONCLUSION: In the records of baptism, it is indicated that the person first “repented” of sin and “believed” in Christ and then was baptized. One must be a believer in Christ to be eligible for baptism.

## Why Should One Be Baptized?

- A. A Christian who is a “follower of Christ” should follow his example. “Jesus...was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (Mark 1:9)
- B. Jesus Christ commanded it of His disciples. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)
- C. It is the pattern followed by the New Testament believers. “...many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.” (Acts 18:8)

CONCLUSION: Believer’s baptism shows one’s loyalty and obedience to Jesus Christ and to Jesus Christ and to His Word. “And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.” (1 John 2:3)

## When Is One To Be Baptized?

- A. “And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water...” (Matthew 3:16)
- B. “...they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38, 39)
- C. Historically, church leaders have agreed:
  - *Martin Luther: “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”*
  - *John Calvin: “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”*
  - *John Wesley: “Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”*

CONCLUSION: The scriptures indicate, and it has been traditionally accepted, that early believers were immersed in water.