

Do I need to say anything?

Water baptism provides a wonderful opportunity to testify about God's marvelous work in our lives.

Through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection we have been born again into a living hope (I Peter 1:3). We were dead in our sins but God made us alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)!

We encourage everyone to share a brief personal testimony during the baptism service. Begin by praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit; He wants to lead you through the process.

To help you develop an effective testimony, begin to write out simple, brief responses on an index card or small piece of paper:

1. Briefly describe where you were spiritually before receiving Christ as your Savior. How did that condition affect your feelings, attitudes, actions or relationships?
2. Explain what motivated you to consider Christ and to receive Him into your life. Describe how your life has changed since you trusted Christ.
3. As you consider your "before Christ" and "after Christ" conditions, look for a theme that can tie your testimony together. For example, "I used to live with a great deal of fear, but when I came to know the love of God through Jesus Christ that fear disappeared."

We suggest that you write out your thoughts from the worksheet onto a note card and read your testimony from this card at the baptism service. Always keep your testimony positive by focusing on good things the Lord has done for you rather than bad things others have done to you. Avoid specific negative references to individuals or churches so that you can keep the emphasis on God and His faithfulness!

Remember to keep it brief-one or two minutes at most. A few well-chosen words can have a powerful impact!

Instructions for Baptism

- Plan to arrive at the church at least one hour before the service, preferably in the clothes in which you will be baptized. Please meet at the front of the sanctuary.
- Dark-colored clothes that will not retain much water work best (jeans are not good). Modesty is important, so please choose clothing carefully.
- Make sure to bring a change of clothes and undergarments, two towels and a plastic bag for wet clothing.

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."

Colossians 2:12

For further information, contact the church office at 717.732.1434.



747 Wertzville Road
Enola, PA 17025
www.riverofgodchurch.org

"By our Baptism, then, we were buried with Him and shared His death in order that just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life."

Romans 6:4 (TEV)

water
baptism



WATER BAPTISM

Why Be Baptized?

1. Because you want to follow Christ's example. Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan."

Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commanded it. Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

3. Because it shows you are a believer. Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for the Christian life.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Acts 2:38

The Meaning Of Baptism

1. Baptism is a visible act with a spiritual meaning. It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb and His resurrection from the dead.

"... having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." Colossians 2:12

2. It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the "old life" and we rise to walk in a "new life." Baptism is like a wedding ring—it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer—it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not "save" you; only your faith in Christ does that.

3. In baptism, the believer has the triune name of the triune God placed upon them: 'Father', 'Son,' and 'Holy Spirit'. The Gospels tell us to baptize believers ". . . into the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19.

4. Baptism also connects us to the "body of Christ," his people in the earth. In baptism, there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

"... for we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body . . ."

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

How Are We To Be Baptized?

As Jesus was baptized —by being immersed in water. The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means to "immerse or dip under water."

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

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul write to the believers in Rome, he assures that all of them have been baptized. The one requirement to baptism is belief in Christ.

"But when they believed Phillip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 8:12

We do not baptize children until they accept Jesus as their personal Savior and are able to understand and explain the ordinance of water baptism.

When Are We To Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay. Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

"Phillip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized? And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water and Phillip baptized him." Acts 8:35-39