

BAPTISM GUIDE



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

We are so excited that you are interested in taking such an important step in your relationship with Jesus by being baptized! We celebrate this with you and want to help you in any way we can. Once a person comes to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the only Savior, the next steps are repentance, confession, and baptism. This is the biblical model that was established by the Apostles, who were trained by Jesus to start the Church. We see thousands of people in the early days of the Church being baptized.

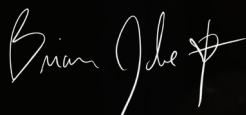
At Compass, we are blessed to see this as well. Over the years, literally thousands of people have come to faith in Jesus and been baptized! We walk each person through the process and we celebrate every baptism!

Once you let us know of your desire to be baptized, the process is simple. First, we set a time to talk with you about your faith and schedule your baptism. Next, we connect you with someone who will baptize you. You can be baptized by any baptized believer, including one of our pastors or staff. We see a variety of people performing baptisms in the New Testament, not just the Apostles.

We will provide everything you need to be baptized here at Compass. We have shoes, towels, and even an awesome baptism T-shirt that will be yours to take home with you after you are baptized. We have a clean and heated outdoor baptistery. Once you arrive, someone will give you some simple instructions about the actual process, and then we will join the angels in heaven as we celebrate your amazing decision to follow Jesus and go ALL-IN with your faith!

We look forward to witnessing this life-changing event. Please let us know when you are ready and how we can help. We can't wait to officially welcome you to our Compass Christian Church family!

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Brian







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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Humans have a natural desire to write their own rules. God calls this attitude sin.

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” **Isaiah 53:6**

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” **1 John 1:8**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” **Romans 3:23**

Sin involves two things:

1. Doing what we shouldn't.
2. Not doing what we should.

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.” **James 4:17**

Ways we try to justify life on our own terms:

Salvation by heritage... → “Someone in my family is a Christian.”

Salvation by being nice... → “I'm a good person.”

Salvation by hard work... → “I'm religious and sometimes go to church.”

SIN IS WHAT SEPARATES US FROM GOD.

OUR OWN EFFORTS AREN'T ENOUGH.



BEST. NEWS. EVER.

God loves us so much that even though we're separated from Him by our sin, He still chooses to show us grace.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” **Ephesians 2:8**

How did God show us grace?

He did this by sending His Son Jesus, who has taken care of our sin problem.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Jesus Christ.” **Ephesians 2:13**

See also *John 14:6* and *Hebrews 9:27-28*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. Because He loves us so deeply, He took the initiative.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**

SINCE SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD—GOD DESIGNED A WAY FOR US TO RETURN TO HIM.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God.” **Isaiah 59:2a**

OUR RESPONSE

ADMIT that I have sin in my life that has separated me from God. He and He alone can save me.

The word that the Bible uses for this is **REPENT**.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...” **Acts 3:19**

“...but unless you repent, you too will all perish.” **Luke 13:3**

BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died to pay for my sins.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

See also Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 3:20-22

CONFESS that Jesus is Lord of my life and forgiver of my sins.

“...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” **Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)**

DECIDE to fully surrender to Jesus by being baptized which symbolizes His death, burial, and resurrection.

ADMIT • BELIEVE • CONFESS • DECIDE

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

It demonstrates your commitment to Jesus.

“...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” **1 Peter 3:21**

It is when you receive the Holy Spirit.

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” **Acts 2:38**

It is where you publicly declare your submission to the Lordship of Christ.

“Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.” **Romans 6:13**

It assures me of the cleansing forgiveness of sin.

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.” **Romans 6:3-4**

“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” **Acts 22:16**

WHY IMMERSION?

Every baptism in the New Testament was by immersion.

“And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” **Acts 8:38-39**

See also Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12-13 & 35-39;
Acts 9:17-19; Acts 10:34-35 & 44-48;
Acts 16:31-34; Acts 19:1-7; Acts 22:12-16

The word “baptize” means to “be submerged.”

Baptism (*bap'tiz'm*), n.

[< OFr.< L< Gr. <baptizein, to immerse]

Webster's New World Dictionary, Concise Edition © 1966

βαπτίζω

The Greek word (baptizo) means to dip or immerse.

It best symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

BEFORE BAPTISM

*I live for me.
I am separated from God.
I am condemned.
I have no hope.
I am a sinner.*

AFTER BAPTISM

**I live for Christ.
I am with God.
I am forgiven.
I have a lot of hope.
I still sin but Christ saved me and I do my best to follow Him.**



FAQs

What if I was already baptized?

Baptism is an expression of your personal decision to surrender your heart to Jesus for the rest of your life. Many people were baptized as infants, and their parents made that decision for them with the hope that one day they would make the decision for themselves! Choosing to be baptized now is your way of affirming that hope and taking this step of faith for yourself.

Who can baptize me?

Any baptized believer in Jesus Christ can baptize someone. A Compass staff member would be happy to help, if you'd like! Let your Prayer Partner know, or head to Next Steps to speak with someone about baptism.

What should I wear?

Compass is happy to provide you with shorts and a special t-shirt for your baptism. If you prefer to be baptized in your own clothes, we suggest clothes that are dark and will stay appropriate when they get wet.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each individual is ready to make a personal decision to follow Jesus, your family can do it together.

What if I have special needs?

No problem! Let a Compass staff member or Changemaker know. We will do our very best to work out the logistics of baptism for any person who is ready to be baptized.





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