

BAPTISM FAQs

1. What about the baptism of children?

We believe that children must first place their faith in Christ for salvation and be old enough to understand the true meaning of baptism before they can be baptized. At Calvary we also ask that children complete the **First Steps** class and meet with one of our staff members to be sure they understand the meaning of what they are asking to do.

Some Churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony (which began about 300 years after the Bible was completed) is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This ceremony is very different from the baptism talked about in the Bible.

Instead of practicing a “baptism of confirmation” for children, we offer a time of “parent-child dedication” in our worship services when parents may dedicate themselves and their children to Christ. You may speak with a pastor or someone in our Children’s Ministry regarding a time to dedicate your child to the Lord.

2. What if I was baptized as an infant or before I came to saving faith in Christ?

Your baptism as an infant was a decision your parents made regarding their commitment to God to raise you in the family of faith. Their desire was that, once you were old enough to understand the things of God, you would have personal faith in Christ. Now that your faith is personal, you need to be baptized to give public testimony of your faith in Christ.

Likewise, if you were baptized before you repented of your sins and came to personal faith in Christ, your baptism did not qualify as “believer’s baptism” in that it failed to give testimony to any inner spiritual renewal in your life. As you prayerfully consider your previous baptism, you will likely come to recognize your need to give public

testimony that you are now a Christ follower and the change He has brought about in your life.

3. What if I was baptized but not by immersion?

We are confident that your prior baptism was a significant event in your faith journey. As Baptists, we believe that baptism is to be by immersion for the reasons previously shared. Every person who desires to be a member of this church is expected to have been baptized by immersion as a public testimony of their faith in Christ.

4. Can my family be baptized together?

Yes, if each family member has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation and each one understands the meaning of baptism, then we do encourage families to be baptized at the same time. What a wonderful expression of personal and family commitment. (Children in grades 1-6 are asked to complete the **First Steps** class prior to being baptized.)

It is important to understand that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. Don't delay your own baptism waiting on other family members to accept Christ.

5. What should I wear for baptism?

Dress in your usual Sunday clothes for Bible Study and Worship Service. Bring the following items for the baptism ceremony:

- Clothing that can get wet, i.e.: short pants and a T-shirt.
- Please wear a white T-shirt or white shorts for the baptism (the baptism robes become see-through when they get wet).
- A towel if you desire. We will provide a towel for your use in the changing room, but you may bring your own towel if you desire.
- Bring a tote bag to carry home your wet clothes (and towel if you brought one).
- There are mirrors and blow dryers available for your use in the changing rooms.

6. What happens at a baptism ceremony?

- You and any other candidates for baptism need to arrive in the changing room about 20 minutes before the start of the service. A baptism volunteer will be present to greet you and assist you before and after your baptism.
- The pastor who will perform your baptism will also meet and pray with you. He will give you other specific instruction at this time.
- If you would like to visit the changing rooms and baptistery area prior to your baptism, please ask one of our staff members who would be glad to arrange this for you.

7. What if I have special needs?

All of our pastors are available to discuss special needs regarding the baptism ceremony.