

Water Baptism

A look at what baptism means, answers to your questions, and why it's important

Stockbridge Community Church

770-474-0084



Where does the Bible talk about Water Baptism?

One scripture is given as Jesus gives some final instructions before returning to Heaven after His resurrection. It is called the *Great Commandment*. He instructs his followers to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. . ."*

Was Jesus Baptized?

Yes!

You can read about how John the Baptist, baptized Jesus in Matthew 3.13-17 below.

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'

Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.'

Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

Other references include: Luke 3:21, Mark 1:9

What does it mean to be baptized in water?

Water baptism is a symbol of an inward change inside. Though Water Baptism does not “save” you, it is a sign of the inward cleansing that you have received since Christ came into your life. It is “dying” to your old self and “being raised” into a new life in Christ. (Romans 6:3-10)

“To baptize” means to dip, plunge, or immerse. It *symbolizes* the covering of cleansing you have received as being a Christian. Therefore, Stockbridge Community Church practices the same method of baptism as was used in the New Testament Church.

When a person becomes a Christian he or she experiences a spiritual baptism into God’s family. Therefore, baptism is a public announcement that a person has become a Christian and now identifies himself with the body of Christ. Luke 7:30 explains that some of the people (Pharisees and religious experts) were denying God’s purposes when they would not be baptized.

What Baptism does NOT do...

Baptism does not save a person eternally, nor does it make an individual a member of a local church. It is only a spiritual duty and privilege. Again, it is a symbol of what has taken place on the inside. There is nothing magical about the water. The water does not cleanse us, Jesus does.

Where can I go in scripture for more study on water baptism?

Here are some of the scriptures found in regards to water baptism.

Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Acts 2:38, 41; Acts 8:12, 36; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:46-48; Acts 16:14-15; Acts 18:8; Acts 19:4-5; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12

Frequently Asked Questions about Baptism

How do I know I am ready to be baptized?

There is only one requirement for being baptized. That is that you have accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life. No one is ever “where they want to be” spiritually. All the “rough edges” will not be gone away. You do not have to have read the Bible all the way through or be able to recite scriptures before being baptized. The Bible gives examples of people’s baptism and how it came immediately after they received salvation. So, don’t wait. Getting baptized right after salvation shows obedience. Many times all the right things will not be in place. For instance, don’t wait for *Great Aunt Sally from Alaska to get here to see you baptized*. It’s great to invite your family, but sometimes family just can’t work it out. So don’t wait very long. Everyone in scripture was baptized immediately after their belief. Sometimes, that same day!

Will I be wet from head to toe?

Yes. You will totally be immersed in the baptismal pool.

Matthew 3.16 is the account of Jesus’ baptism. “. . . *Jesus came up out of the water. . .*”

What should I wear?

We prefer **NO WHITE T-SHIRTS** or light colored clothing for men or women. Casual clothes are fine. Be advised though that as you enter the pool, everyone can see what you are wearing. Please dress appropriately for that reason. Shirts that may come up in the water or clothes that cling too tightly when wet, may not be appropriate. Dark colored clothing, Capri’s pants (for ladies), and longer shirts may be a better choice. Go with your best judgment.

When should I arrive on the day of my baptism?

Baptism takes place in each service on Baptism Sunday near the end of the service. Arrive at least 15 minutes before service and go to the Guest Relations desk in the main foyer and you will be directed to where you should go. They will also instruct you as when to go back and prepare for baptism. **Sit at the rear of the sanctuary for easy access.**

What should I bring?

Bring a full change of clothes and towels. Hairdryer, toiletries, curling iron etc are optional. Something to take your wet clothes home in may be beneficial. We have extra towels if you forget.

Who will baptize me?

Normally, one of our Family Ministry Leaders baptizes adults and/or Children’s Leaders will baptize Children unless you specify otherwise. *Connect Group Leaders, Christian Parents of young children, or Ministers within a family may assist in the baptism if you wish.* Please contact the church to request these changes. kevin@sccview.net

Will I have to say anything?

No.

Will someone be taking pictures?

Yes! A SCC photographer will be taking pictures. So you will not have to worry about not having a record of your exciting day. These pictures will be placed on a CD and you can pick them up at guest services the following week.

Let us invite your family and/or friends!

Give us 7 names and addresses of your family and/or friends to invite to your baptism.

OR, if you provide a typed e-mail list via an e-mail sent to baptism@sccview.net, we will send an E-vite to an unlimited number of family and/or friends.

Use provided form to provide names and mailing addresses of friends and/or family you would like for us to invite.

Cut off is the Monday *prior* to your baptism date

For more information, contact Pastor Kevin:

770-474-0084 x102

E-mail: kevin@sccview.net

Subject: Baptism Invitations

Your Name: _____ Date of Baptism: _____

Please write exactly as you would like envelope addressed.

Name(s) and Mailing Address OR E-mail address of invitee(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

(7) _____
