

as many friends and family – especially those who do not profess Christ as their Lord and Savior – to their baptism. This is a person's way of telling their friends they are now identified with Christ and their hope is solely in the Gospel.

## What Is Baptism?

*Baptism is solely an expression of faith by full immersion in the water.*

Water baptism is a public declaration that we have turned away from our sins and put our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord (Acts 2:38).

It is important to recognize that baptism does not save us; instead we are saved by God's grace as we trust in His Son who died for us on the cross and was raised from the dead (Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10). Being baptized also is not a means of grace. However, baptism publicly identifies us with Jesus Christ as His disciples, His followers. This is vital because Jesus Himself said, "If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

As we seek to emulate Christ's death and resurrection, we do so by being baptized by full immersion in the water.

## Who Should be Baptized

*Baptism is only for those who have expressed faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Baptism is a personal, yet public, expression of faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is required that one hears, and believes in the Gospel, repent of their sins, and embrace Christ as their only hope for salvation. Thus, baptism is for believer's only, and not for unbelievers.

It is because of this that we do not believe in or affirm infant baptisms.

## What next?

**Information Sheet.** On the back of this brochure is a brief questionnaire that you can fill out and turn in.

**Write out your testimony to the leaders of the church.** All we ask for is a simple, one page statement of how you have come to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. We are looking for an understanding of the Gospel and how the Gospel has worked in your life.

- *Briefly describe where you were spiritually before receiving Christ as your Savior. How did that condition affect your feelings, attitudes, actions or relationships?*
- *Explain what happened when you accepted Christ. Did someone witness to you? Did you read the Bible? What caused you to come to Christ?*
- *Most importantly, give a brief description of the Gospel to the best of your abilities.*
- *Describe how your life has changed since you trusted Christ.*
- *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."*
- *Keep it positive! Focus on the good things God has done for you rather than the bad things that may have happened to you. Avoid negative references to individuals or other churches. Keep the emphasis on God and His faithfulness!*

**Meet with an Elder or an Elder's Assistant.**

There will be an informal meeting where an elder will take some time to talk with you about your testimony, the Gospel and your life.

**In the days before you are baptized,** you should be sharing your excitement with friends and family members, particularly those who do not believe. This is an excellent opportunity for them to see and hear publicly how you have changed, and what you believe.

### Day of Baptism.

*What to bring.* It is extremely important you have the following items with you on the day you are baptized:

- Change of clothes
- Plastic Bag for your wet clothes
- Two towels.
- Typed up or written out testimony.

*What to wear.* You will be standing in warm water. Clothes that retain water are not good (for example, jeans). Wear a polyester or some other synthetic material, dark colored t-shirt. Cotton tends to stick, and lighter colors tend to be transparent when wet. For pants, men may wear swim trunks or a similar synthetic, darker color pair of shorts. Women may wear a conservative one piece bathing suit, or synthetic, darker color pair of shorts. You may wear sandals into the baptismal.

*Show up 20 minutes prior to the start of the service.* This allows the elder and his assistants to show you where you need to stand, show you where you will go after you are baptized to get changed, and go over any last second details or questions.

Thank you for your interest in being baptized. Please take the time fill out the questions below, so we may better serve you in your desire to be baptized.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact you:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized before?

Yes  No

If so, when?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any questions you would like answered?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM**

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**Baptism**

As you have spent time at Missio Dei Fellowship, you may have heard baptism mentioned on a few occasions. The purpose of this brochure is to try to briefly answer such important questions as:

- Why is baptism so important?
- Why is someone baptized?
- What is baptism?
- Who should be baptized?
- How can I be baptized?

**Why is baptism so important?**

*Baptism is commanded by God.*

In Matthew 28:19, part of the Great Commission Jesus gives His disciples (and us) is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." One of the first things we are to do as Christians is to be baptized. Even Jesus Himself was baptized to mark the beginning of His ministry.

**Why is someone baptized?**

*Baptism expresses unity with Christ.*

As Romans 6:3-5 says, it is through our baptism that we express our unity with the death of Christ and his Resurrection. We come into the water as our old selves, slaves to sin, and through immersion, we show Christ's death and burial, as a symbol of dying to ourselves. Finally, we are brought up and out of the water, which symbolizes we are new, clean creatures, wholly committed to being Christ-like in all we do.

*Baptism is a public statement of faith.*

Baptism is not a private act. It was intended to be a public display for the world to see in a very tangible way the death and resurrection of Christ. By being baptized, we are fulfilling the Great Commission, not simply by the act of baptism itself, but by publicly presenting our faith to our friends, family, coworkers, and fellow brother and sisters in Christ. It is precisely because of the public nature of this event that someone being baptized should invite