

Baptism Details:

- ◆ We take joy in hearing each person's story celebrating the circumstances and events that caused you to make a decision to be a Christ follower. To prepare for this, please take time to write a paragraph or two describing your faith journey. We will be scheduling a time to video tape your story to show when you are baptized.
- ◆ Please arrive 30 minutes before the service in which you will be baptized for last minute instructions with the Pastor.

THINGS TO BRING

- *A towel*
- *Clothes to be baptized in: wear dark loose fitting t-shirt or sweatshirt and shorts. Flip flops are a good option.*
- *Clothes to change back into after being baptized*
- *Family and friends you want to share this experience with!*



If you have any comments or questions please feel free to call the office: 360-486-9029 or email baptism@nbccoly.org



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Baptism Information Sheet

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What is Baptism?

- ◆ There are two uses of the word 'baptism' that are applied to people in the New Testament. One is *Holy Spirit baptism* and the other is *water baptism*.
- ◆ *Holy Spirit baptism*, or salvation, occurs at the conversion of every Christian (1Cor.12:13). It takes place in the spiritual realm; visible to God, but invisible to man. Holy Spirit baptism is an actual change in a person's identity and position. Christ is the one who baptizes the person (John 1:33), and in doing so transfers his citizenship from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of heaven. In this baptism the individual spiritually dies, spiritually is buried, and spiritually rises from the dead (Romans 6). He is pronounced dead to his sin and old way of life, his old self is considered buried, and by the power of Christ he is given a new and abundant life—he is raised from the dead as a new person. Therefore salvation, conversion, regeneration (being 'born again'), and Holy Spirit baptism refer to exactly the same event—the point in time when a person is fully and finally identified with Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit baptism also makes him part of the Church, the body of Christ, which consists of all true Christians in every part of the world.

- ◆ *Water baptism* takes place after salvation, and points backward to the Holy Spirit baptism that was part of regeneration. Water baptism is a visible experience in the physical realm that takes place in man's sight. Holy Spirit baptism is the 'real thing' while water baptism is the *symbol* of Spirit baptism. It simply points backwards to what happened at the moment of salvation. Baptism symbolizes, to us and others, our trust in Jesus as savior. When the individual is dunked into the water, it symbolizes what took place at his Spirit baptism: his death and burial with Christ (he/she is 'buried' by water, separated from life giving air—hopefully not for too long!!). Coming up out of the water symbolizes the fact that the person was raised with Christ to a new life.
- ◆ Baptism is ideally done by dunking the person under the water, and immediately bringing him back out, WHICH IS precisely the meaning of the word 'baptize' (dunk, cover, immerse, or dip). It is the method that BEST MIRRORS what baptism is supposed to symbolize—a total change in identity. Immersion in water also is the consistent pattern of the Scriptural examples in Matthew 3:16 and Acts 8: 38-39.



Who Should Be Baptized?

- ◆ Anyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior should be baptized (Acts 2:41). This includes men and women (Acts 8:12), and children who are believers (Acts 16:33-34).

Why Should A Christian Be Baptized?

- ◆ In New Testament times Christians were baptized immediately after their conversion (Acts 2:8,16). If this is not possible, the sooner after conversion the better. This is because baptism was designed by Christ to be the Christian's first step of obedience, one that sets the pattern for continual spiritual growth.
- ◆ SUMMARY: Let's summarize by saying again that water baptism is not a part of salvation, nor is it necessary for a person to truly be saved. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5) However, the example and command of Christ and the early church make it very important. In other words, while baptism is not essential to your spiritual birth, it is important to your spiritual growth. Some nervousness or embarrassment may be holding you back from being baptized. But don't allow little things to deprive you of the deep and lasting personal reward that comes from being obedient to Jesus Christ out of a heart of love, and publicly saying, "He is my Lord."