



*We are so glad you are considering baptism. Here are some answers to common questions about baptism to help you make a decision in taking this step of faith.*

### **Why Should I Be Baptized?**

You should take the step of baptism because Jesus both commanded it and modeled it. It is the first visible expression of your faith and demonstrates that you are a believer.

### **What Is The Meaning of Baptism?**

In the same way that Jesus died, was buried and rose to new life, baptism symbolizes death to our sinful nature and being raised to walk in a new life with Christ.

### **Why Be Baptized By Immersion?**

Because Jesus and every baptism in the Bible was done in this way. Also, the word “baptize” means “to dip or immerse.” This is why we practice this method.

### **When Should I Be Baptized?**

In the New Testament, people who made a commitment to follow Jesus were immediately baptized as their first step of obedience to Him. There is no reason to wait. If you wait until you are “good enough,” you will never feel ready for baptism.

### **Does Baptism Ensure I Will Go To Heaven?**

By itself, baptism does not make us right with God. It is only by accepting the gift of salvation offered to us through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Just like a wedding ring is a public symbol of commitment between a husband and wife, baptism is a public way of sharing with everyone that you have chosen to follow Jesus Christ.

### **What If I Was Baptized As An Infant?**

You should be thankful that your parents had a desire for you to have a spiritual life. Some traditions utilize infant baptism to mark the beginning of a person’s spiritual journey. The Bayou Church uses other means to help parents with this in order to stay true to what we see as the Bible’s teachings on baptism.

We believe baptism is a public profession of salvation and only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. If you have not experienced baptism since asking Jesus into your life, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

### **What About Children?**

At The Bayou Church, we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them as a symbol of their faith in Christ.

### **What Do I Wear When Getting Baptized?**

You will need to wear appropriate length, dark-colored shorts or pants (whatever you are comfortable in). We will provide you with a shirt to wear, towels and hair dryers. Remember to bring a change of clothes and a bag to put your wet clothes in. We have changing rooms available. Arrive 30 minutes before the service is scheduled for last-minute instructions.

### **How Do I Register To Be Baptized?**

You can register online at [www.thebayouchurch.org/baptism](http://www.thebayouchurch.org/baptism), by meeting with a pastor or by filling out a Connection Card on Sundays. We will then contact you to discuss baptism further and to schedule a Sunday service time you would like to be baptized in.

Contact us at 337-984-8291 or [baptismteam@thebayouchurch.org](mailto:baptismteam@thebayouchurch.org) if you have any further questions on baptism.