

We are so glad you are considering baptism!

Here are some frequently asked questions to help you decide about 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 you as 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.

Who Can Baptize?

There is no requirement that only staff members perform baptisms. In fact, a mentor, family member, or other person influential in your decision to follow Christ is welcome to baptize you! *Our expectation is that the person baptizing you is a follower of Christ who has been obedient in baptism as well.*

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 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?

When a child decides to follow Christ, we gladly celebrate that decision with them. However, because baptism does not "save" us, delaying baptism in order to discern full comprehension of its meaning is highly recommended. At The Bayou Church, we strongly encourage parents to wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. We encourage you to reach out to our NextGen staff for more information.

What Do I Wear When Getting Baptized?

You will need to wear appropriate length, dark-colored shorts, or pants (whatever you are comfortable wearing). We will provide a shirt to wear, towels and hair dryers. We have changing rooms available, so remember to bring a change of clothes, too! Please arrive 20 minutes before the service starts for last-minute instructions. (For example: If you are being baptized at the 8:00am service, please arrive at 7:40am.)

How Do I Register to Be Baptized?

You can register online at 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 Salvation Counseling.

Contact us at **337-984-8291** or **care@thebayouchurch.org** if you have any further questions on baptism.