

The Baptism Discussion

Part I: Testimony

"God's Spirit calls men to Jesus in diverse ways. Some are drawn so gently that they scarce know when the drawing began, and others are so suddenly affected that their conversion stands out with noontday clearness." – Charles Spurgeon

We are so excited that you desire to go public with your faith in Jesus and be baptized! Would you be willing to share your story with us? Baptism is a visible portrayal of your faith in Jesus and of your union with him in his life, death, and resurrection. You go down with him into the watery grave and come up with him into newness of life. We'd love to hear how he brought you to himself and is now putting you back together!

In a separate document (around a page or so in length), please share with us the way you became a Christian.

1. Describe your life before coming to Christ. (If you were brought to faith as a young child, we realize this will be limited.)
2. Describe how you came to Christ. Include important people, events, and thoughts leading up to it. Explain what his death and resurrection means to you.
3. Describe your life after coming to Christ. How have you changed because of this? How is your relationship with him now? (If you only recently came to faith, we realize this will be limited.)
4. Finally, please explain what baptism means to you and why you desire to be baptized.

Please feel free to include any relevant Scriptures as you share your story and thoughts. When you are done, please save your document as a PDF and attach it in an email sent to the person who is walking through this process with you.

Thanks and may God be glorified!

Part II: Baptism

Introduction

Read the texts listed below. After each stop and discuss: What do we learn about baptism here? Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

→ Matthew 28:16-20

→ Acts 8:26-40

→ Romans 6:1-14

→ 1 Peter 3:20b-22

Definition

Drawing from the texts just read, our Core Confession here at Mercy Hill defines baptism as follows:

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, commanded of all believers, to be administered to them with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is a sign of their fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of their giving themselves up to God, to live and walk in newness of life.

Part III: Logistics

- Person to baptize
- Testimony preparation and coaching
- Order of service
- Proper attire
- Friends and family

During the service, here are the three questions we will ask you prior to baptism:

1. Please briefly tell us how you came to know the Lord and why you want to be baptized. [You would share your story at this point]
2. Do you believe that the Father loves you; that the Son lived, died, and rose for you; and that the Holy Spirit now lives in you and has sealed you for the day of redemption? [I do]
3. Do you desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ—to take up your cross and follow him, as Lord, Savior, and supreme Treasure of your life? [I do]