



Thoughts and Notes in Preparation for Baptism

Congratulations on your decision to follow Christ in baptism! This sacrament (*a ceremony that is considered both sacred and a commandment from our Lord to be obeyed*), marks an important milestone in your journey of faith. We pray that as the time for your baptism approaches that you will prepare yourself spiritually, and think through some of the concepts in this document.

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality. It is meant to communicate to the world that you have decided to follow Jesus as Lord of your life. It is the beginning of your walk, not the end. Don't be surprised if leading up to your baptism, things happen that discourage you from following through. This is normal and is to be expected! PRESS On. You won't regret your decision to be baptized.

Please read the following pages carefully. If you have questions about any spiritual or logistical concern, please send an email to Harry Li at harry@mosaicchurch.net or call him at (501) 772-5382.

In the mean time, know that we are proud of you for your willingness to walk with Christ and will continue to pray for you and your family.

I. The Meaning of Baptism

From the Greek word, *baptizo*, meaning "to dip" or "to immerse."

II. The Metaphor of Baptism

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:1-4, NASB

The very moment we trust Christ as Savior we are forever more identified with Him. That identification can be related, specifically, to three events in our Lord's experience. Namely ...

A. **His Death (Romans 6:3, 5)**

When you stand in the water, it symbolizes that the old, "sinful man" has died, having been crucified with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

B. **His Burial (Romans 6:4)**

When you are led under the water, it symbolizes that the "old man" has been laid to rest, having been buried with Christ.

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C. His Resurrection (Romans 6:4-5, 8)

When you are raised up out of the water, it symbolizes that the “new man” is now wonderfully alive in you and that you desire now to live for and with Christ (Galatians 2:20).

III. The Message of Baptism

- A. Baptism is an outward expression of an inner reality (Romans 6:3, 4).
- B. Baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Luke 23:39-43).
- C. Baptism is an act of obedience (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41; 18:8)

IV. The Motive for Baptism

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matt 28:19-20, NASB

A. To confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 18:8).

It is a public acknowledgement and declaration that you personally believe and have trusted in God for your life and salvation. Thus, the only requirement for baptism is that you have knowingly and of your own free will surrendered your heart and life to Jesus Christ. That is, you have invited Him to “save” you from your sins, to take full control of your life and to one day receive you into His kingdom, into eternal life.

B. To agree with the commandment of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

In Jesus’ last instructions to His disciples, He commanded them to go into all the world and make disciples of all men, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this way, true believers would be unmistakably identified, both with Christ and with one another, i.e., the family of God, by their obedience to this command.

V. Your Choice?

Since baptism is a personal and public expression of one’s own faith, we believe that ***the decision to be baptized must be made by individuals in accordance with their faith.*** If a person has been baptized previously, yet not by conscious choice of their own free will (e.g., perhaps as an infant, etc.), we believe that upon a mature profession of personal faith, the individual should have the option of being baptized again. However, ***once an individual has been baptized in the manner described in this document, there is no need or biblical instruction to be baptized at any other time in his/her life.***

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VI. Logistical Information

A. Information We Need from You

Please email the answers to these questions to James Wafford at james@mosaicchurch.net. **We typically baptize on the either the first or third Sunday of the month.** Exceptions can be made for tight scheduling with family that are traveling to see the baptism, but would be helpful to know at least three weeks in advance, if possible.

1. **What service do you normally attend?** You will be baptized only in the service that you normally attend.
2. **Who would you like to baptize you?** It's okay if you have no preference, in which case, whoever is available will do the baptizing. If you prefer a certain pastor, we'll have to make sure that the pastor's schedule coincides with your baptism date. It is perfectly okay if you have a special family member, friend, mentor, pastor that you would like to do the baptism. We need to know who you've selected in advance.
3. **Would you or a parent like to say a few words?** If so, you/they will have no more than two minutes to say a brief testimony. Let us know if you desire to do this.

B. Check-in

1. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to the service in which you are being baptized.
2. Check-in with the sound booth and ask to speak with the Worship Service Producer. He will show you the order of the service and give you an estimate of the time of when your baptism will occur.
3. Please sit towards the front of the auditorium on the side that the baptistry (a converted horse trough!) is located.

C. What to Wear/Bring

1. Comfortable shorts and a shirt (avoid wearing white clothes and loose fitting, low-cut shirts).
2. Bring a towel and make sure you carry it with you when you when you are called up front.
3. An extra change of clothes for afterwards.

D. The Baptism Itself

1. If you or your parent wishes to say anything, it will happen before you climb into the baptistry.
2. Once in the baptistry, you will sit flat on the bottom, with your feet to the left of the person baptizing you.
3. As you sit there, you will be asked to affirm your decision to follow Christ.
4. With you right hand, cover your mouth and nose, and place your left hand over your right hand.
5. The person baptizing you will guide you back into the water until you are totally submersed and then lift you back out. The act itself will only last a few seconds.
6. You will be guided back outside of the trough, where you will be prayed for and then brought back to the restrooms to change.

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