

Our Salvation - Session Two: The Importance of Baptism

Question #1: Why should I be baptized?

- To follow the example set by **CHRIST**.
“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” Mark 1:9
- Because Christ **COMMANDS** it.
*“Jesus said, ‘Go then to all people everywhere and make them disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.’”
Matthew 28:19*
- It demonstrates that I really am a **BELIEVER**.
“... many of the people who heard him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8
“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3

Question #2: What is the meaning of baptism?

- It illustrates Christ's **BURIAL** and **RESURRECTION**.
“Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:13
- It illustrates my **NEW LIFE** as a Christian.
“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Baptism does not make you a **BELIEVER** - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that.
“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is a gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Question #3: Why be baptized by immersion?

- Because **JESUS** was baptized that way.
“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16
- Every baptism in the **BIBLE** was by immersion.
(Example): *“... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” Acts 8:38-39*
- The word “baptize” means to **“DIP UNDER”** water.
βαπτίζω **baptizō**; to dip. Immerse, submerge for a religious purpose, to overwhelm, saturate, baptize (The Complete Word Study Dictionary).

🕒 These founders agree immersion best symbolizes burial and resurrection:



Martin Luther

“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”



John Calvin

“The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”



John Wesley

“Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

Question #4: Who should be baptized?

Every person who has **BELIEVED** in Christ.

“Those who believed and accept His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

Believing Always Precedes Baptism

Question #5: What about children? Should infants be baptized?

At Church Requel, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible.

Question #6: When should I be baptized? **AS SOON AS** I have believed!

“Those who believed... were baptized... that day.” Acts 2:41 (Also Acts 8:12 and 16:33)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. This is one reason why, at Church Requel, we conduct baptisms indoors during church services. The Ohio weather keeps us from the outside nine months a year. Also, baptism is an ordinance just like communion.

Question #7: May my family be baptized together?

YES! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

*“And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’
And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house...
and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.” Acts 16:31,32, 33b*

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to receive Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

Question #8: What should I wear to my baptism?

Women should wear a dark colored top with shorts or long pants. Men may wear shorts and a shirt or a swimsuit. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

Question #9: Will I have to speak publicly at my baptism?

No! We understand that most people have a fear of public speaking. The pastor will ask you if you have believed in Jesus Christ for your salvation and if it is your intent to live for Christ. You will indicate, “Yes.” Then the pastor will say, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” He will then lay you back until you are fully immersed and then bring you right back up again.

Because your baptism is a testimony to your faith in Christ, we’d like to personalize each baptism with your individual testimony. Most of the time this will be done by pre-recorded video, which will be played before your baptism. However, if you’d prefer to proclaim your testimony “live,” you may do so. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism service.

Question #10: If I have already been baptized as a believer at another church, do I need to be baptized again? What if I wasn’t baptized by immersion?

There is no need to be baptized again. Baptism is not an initiation into Church Requel; rather it is an ordination of the universal church. Immersion is our practice because we believe baptisms in the Bible were practiced this way. However, we recognize other forms of baptisms. This is one of those areas where we can have differences of belief from other churches, yet experience unity, liberty and kindness.

Question #11: If I have already been baptized once as a believer, may I be baptized a second time?

Nowhere does the Bible speak of anyone ever being baptized a second time as a believer. However, there is nothing that speaks against the practice either. There is no need to be baptized a second time. However, if you feel the desire to reaffirm your faith publicly, we would be happy to baptize you again.

Our Statements - Session Three: The Mission Statement of Church Requel

*“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church.
“I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”
1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)*

The mission of Church Requel is...

to be a community loving God and loving people.

1st part of our mission: **“To be...”**

WHO WE ARE is more important than **WHAT WE DO**.
“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7a (KJV)
*“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”
Isaiah 29:13 Matthew 15:8 (ESV)*

2nd part of our mission: **“... a community...”**

7 Reasons Why I Need Community!

- #1. I **BELONG** in God’s family with other believers.
*“So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others.”
Romans 12:5 (NIV)*
*“You are a member of God’s very own family... and **you belong** in God’s household
with every other Christian.” Ephesians 2:19 (LB)*
- #2. I need **ENCOURAGEMENT** to grow spiritually.
*“Let us think of one another and how we can **encourage each other** to love
and do good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24 (Ph)*
*“Every day... **keep encouraging one another** so that none of you is hardened
by the glamour of sin.” Hebrews 3:13 (JB)*
- #3. I need **ACCOUNTABILITY** to grow spiritually.
*“People learn from one another just **as iron sharpens iron.**” Proverbs 27:17 (GN)*
*“Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should **restore him gently...**
Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)*

#4. Christ is **PRESENT** in our community!
*“For wherever two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.”
Matthew 18:20 (GN)*

#5. There is **POWER** when people pray together.
“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 19:19-20 (ESV)

#6. Fellowship is a **WITNESS** to the world.
Jesus: “My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind so the world will believe you sent me.” John 17:2 (LB)

#7. I am **OBLIGATED** to the other Christ-followers.
“Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God’s various gifts of grace.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NCV)

“There are different kinds of service to God... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 (LB)

108 “one anothers” in the New Testament. Consider these examples:

Serve one another - Gal. 5:13	Bear one another’s burdens - Gal. 6:2
Accept one another - Rom. 15:7	Be devoted to one another - Rom. 12:10
Forgive one another - Col. 3:13	Greet one another - Rom. 16:16
Honor one another - Rom. 12:10	Teach one another - Rom. 14:14
Submit to one another - Eph. 5:21	Encourage one another - 1 Thess. 5:11

3rd part of our mission: “... loving God...” **OUR TOP PRIORITY**

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.’” Matthew 36-38 (ESV)

... **all your heart...** καρδία (kardia) - heart, inner self; mind; will, desire, intention

... **all your soul...** ψυχή (psychē) - self, inner life, one’s inmost being; (physical) life; that which has life, living creature, person, human being.

... **all your mind...** διάνοια (dianoia) - mind, understanding; intention, purpose; thought, attitude

Loving God is much more than: A BELIEF IN A CREED
RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION
SINGING WORSHIP SONGS

The key word is not heart, soul, mind, (or strength). The key word is ALL.

ὅλος (holos) - whole, complete, intact, undivided, entire, all

I love God with all of me. That includes...

4th part of our mission: "... loving people."

WHY? Because people MATTER TO GOD.

"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37 (ESV)

God CREATED people.

*"Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living person."
Genesis 2:7 (NLT)*

God INITIATES relationship with people.

"The Lord appeared to Abram." Genesis 12:7a (GNT)

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." John 1:14a (NIV)

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (ESV)

"You received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" Romans 8:15 (NLT)

Even ONE PERSON matters to God!

Jesus told stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin, the prodigal son in Luke 15.

"Your Father in heaven feels the same way. He doesn't want to lose even one of these simple believers." Matthew 18:14 (MSG)

So IF people matter to God, THEN ...

PEOPLE SHOULD MATTER TO US