

A word from Pastor David Daniel

Now, if you are reading this little section here because you have decided that you are ready to be baptised, then please accept my wholehearted congratulations and super well done.

Baptism is a most significant step in the journey of the believer's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is that public declaration that you trust in Him for your salvation and are committed to following Him and His teachings forever. Furthermore, it is an act of obedience to our Lord.



I know that there are many challenges in being a follower of Christ and I am certain that you have many unanswered questions and possibly even doubts. But if you have read through this pamphlet and understand the significance of baptism, if you are sure that what you have read applies to you, then know this for sure, it is our Lord's pleasure that you take this great and momentous step. Be sure then to mark the date of your baptism in your journal or bible, make a special note and keep it in a safe place. Your baptism will be a great statement to the world and a personal reminder of your new identity (2 Corinthians 5:17).

So we are ready, the Peoples Christian Fellowship is ready to celebrate with you and to welcome you into our church fellowship. We will be praying for you, and are happy to support and encourage you as you take this most amazing step of faith, so well done my friend, well done.

Father's peace
Pastor Dave

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The People's Christian Fellowship

WHAT IS...



Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.



What is Baptism?

Christian baptism is, according to scripture, an outward testimony of what has occurred inwardly in a believer's life. Baptism symbolises a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-4 - *"don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*

The action of being immersed in the water symbolises dying and being buried with Christ. The act of coming out of the water symbolises Christ's resurrection and our rising to a new life with Him..

There are three requirements before a person is baptised:

- 1) the person being baptised must have repented of their sin
- 2) the person must have believed and trusted in Jesus Christ as Saviour, and
- 3) the person must understand what baptism signifies.

If a person is truly repentant (to repent means to 'change your mind'), believes the Lord Jesus is Saviour, understands that baptism is a step of obedience in publicly proclaiming their faith in Christ, and desires to be baptised, then there is no reason to prevent the believer from being baptised.

Baptism is a step of obedience—publicly declaring faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and commitment to Him—an identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

DEFINITION

Gk. βαπτίζω - *baptizō*

To immerse, submerge, dip repeatedly
To cleanse, to wash, to make clean

Your Testimony...

Please use this space to write why you have chosen to enter through the waters of baptism...

Write down 2 things from your old self that have died since you became a Christian:

Write down at least 1 thing from your old self that still needs to die (*if you would like prayer about this, please speak to a church leader/minister*):

Am I ready for Baptism?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

It is of course paramount that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord of all & Saviour of the world. Not just in who He is, but in what He has done for you. You must believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross, shedding His blood as an appeasing sacrifice (propitiation) for the sins of the world. You must also believe that Christ not only died and was buried but that He rose again and is seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.

As well as this you must of course believe that the work of Christ Jesus on the cross is sufficient to cleanse you from **all** sin through your FAITH in Jesus Christ.

Have you repented of your sins?

To repent means to 'change your mind' or turn away. It involves recognising that outside of Christ you are a sinner, according to God's holy standard and that the consequence for sin is death. Christ has died so that you may be forgiven for ALL your sins and so your act of repentance is to change your mind about God, accepting Christ's forgiveness and make a firm choice to turn away from your former lifestyle and sin no more by God's grace.

Do you understand the significance of baptism?

It is important that you understand the step you are about to take. If you do not understand the significance of baptism and what it means for you, please read through this booklet or speak to one of the church ministers who will be happy to answer your questions and explain baptism in further detail.

You must have a clear understanding of baptism before taking this step, knowing that you are making a public declaration of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and making a commitment to live a new sinless life accomplished in Christ, putting off the old man (your previous life of sin) and putting on the new man (the new life of righteousness in Christ).

With all the above in mind... if you believe that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and has forgiven you of your sins, you have repented and you understand the significance of baptism, then you are indeed ready for baptism.

Why is baptism important?

Why was Jesus baptised?

Jesus Christ is our example of obedience

- In the old testament, the High Priest offered sacrifices to God for the sins of the people. The priests had to be washed with water and anointed with oil before they could make such offerings. Jesus Christ became our High Priest and offered the ultimate sacrifice for sin - Himself. He therefore had to be washed and anointed, both of which occurred when He submitted Himself to John's Baptism at the Jordan River. Jesus was, as we know, without sin but He was baptised (washed) and as He came up from the water He was anointed as the Spirit of God rested upon him. He did this not to be cleansed from sin but to fulfil all righteousness. **(Matthew 3:15)**
- Jesus Christ lived as our example, in total obedience to the Father. This meant that He had to fulfil all the requirements of the law (as a man) which included the requirement for baptism. Baptism was for sinners, yet Jesus although without sin was numbered among the transgressors **(Isaiah 53:12)** and so He takes His place among sinful men and is baptised as they are. In this way Jesus identified Himself with His people and publicly illustrated His death and resurrection, through this act of baptism. Jesus Christ is our example of total obedience to the Father.



Next Steps...

Why do I need to be baptised?

Baptism is an outward sign of the covenant of grace

- The Covenant of Grace is the covenant between God and Mankind where God promises to Mankind eternal life. It is based upon the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the condition is faith in Jesus Christ. As the Communion Supper corresponds to and transcends OT Passover, Baptism, likewise corresponds to and transcends circumcision. "They represent the same spiritual blessings that were symbolized by circumcision and Passover in the old dispensation" (*Berkhoff, Lewis, Systematic Theology, 1988, p. 620*).

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality

- Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality. **1 Peter 3:21** states "and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but **the pledge of a clear conscience towards God** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is then, a public declaration of ones repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is representative of the inward baptism of the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 2:38**)

According to Romans 6:3-7 we have been **baptised 'into Christ'** which means we are **united in His death** and **raised to a new life in Christ**. Our **old self** (that is our sinful self) **is crucified** so that the sin which once ruled our lives is removed. When the sinful man dies, he is resurrected a new man who is now **free from sin**.



Baptism is a commandment of the Lord

- Baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 28:19-20**) Not only did Jesus lead the way in baptism, He also commanded that it be done and told us to teach others to do likewise. Jesus said "If you love Me you will keep my commands" (**John 14:15**) So we obey Christ by submitting to baptism.

What do I do now?

If you believe you are ready and would like to be baptised please speak to your pastor. You do not need to wait until you hear that a baptism is scheduled but as soon as you decide that you are ready, let your pastor know the wonderful news, so they can rejoice with you and pray for you as you begin your new journey. They will let you know an approximate date for your baptism, confirming the details nearer the time.

If you would like to talk to someone about baptism, please let your pastor know who will be happy to answer your questions or refer you to someone you can talk to in more detail. You will also receive some literature to read through.

You will be asked to attend a meeting approximately one week before the date of your baptism so that those responsible for baptising you can explain the process to you in more detail.

Prior to your baptism you will be asked about your repentance and faith in Christ to ensure that you are sincere and confident about the step you are taking. On the day of your baptism you will be asked to give a public testimony of your faith. If you have any concerns about this please speak to a church leader.

On the day of your baptism you will need:

- To wear 'white clothing' that is preferably not see-through. These are the clothes that you will be baptised in.
- To bring a complete change of clothes for after your baptism
- To bring a towel, comb/brush
- To have a prepared testimony
- To invite your friends/family to celebrate with you