

## A Message from the Pastor

Dear Baptismal Candidate:

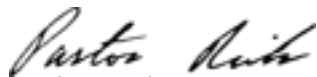
I am excited about your decision to follow the Lord in water baptism. It is the first step after conversion to indicate your obedience to your new Master and Friend, Jesus Christ.

This brochure is designed to give you ample information on this step in your Christian experience. Please read it carefully and the baptism service will be more meaningful to you.

I can remember clearly my baptism as a boy in Maple Valley, Washington. I have never turned away from the commitment I made that night. How real Jesus has been to me. I trust you will have the same experience that I have had through your obedience to His command.

These are wonderful days to serve the Lord. Give Him your whole life. What He has in store for you is far greater than you can even imagine.

With anticipation,

  
Rick J. Cole  
Pastor

## Why Be Baptized?

*Water Baptism  
According to the New Testament*

I. You should be baptized because you want to follow Christ's example.

*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9*

II. You should be baptized because Christ commanded it.

*Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them My disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19,20*

III. You should be baptized because it shows you are a believer.

*"... many of the Corinthians who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8*

IV. You should be baptized because obeying Christ's command shows you know Him.

*"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." I John 2:3*

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## What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

I. Baptism is a symbol of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

*"Christ died for our sins . . . He was buried . . . and He rose again." I Corinthians 15:3,4*

II. Baptism is a symbol of your 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 are already one! Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring. It's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith . . . it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9*

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## How Are You To Be Baptized?

I. You are to be baptized as Jesus was baptized in the Bible, by immersion in water.

*"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw . . ." Matthew 3:16a*

The word "baptize" literally means "to dip under water."

*". . . then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water . . ." Acts 8:38,39*

II. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, according to the words of Jesus.

*Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them My disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19,20*

III. You are to be baptized because it is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection.

*"By our baptism then we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead also we might live a new life!" Romans 6:4*

## Who Should Be Baptized?

*Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ should be baptized.*

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

*“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*

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## When Are You To Be Baptized?

*You should be baptized as soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay.*

*“Those who believed . . . were baptized . . . that day.” Acts 2:41*

*“Then Philip began with the Scriptures and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘Look here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The official answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:36-39* There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person believes in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

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## What About Being Baptized Twice?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized. If you were once immersed and then strayed away, you are encouraged to be baptized again, signifying your total dedication to Christ.

## Can My Family Be Baptized Together?

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

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ! We do not baptize children until they are old enough to be sure they have made a personal decision to follow Christ.

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## Information for Baptismal Candidates

Water baptism is offered the first Sunday of each month during all three services at 9am, 10:30am and 12pm. The instructional class meets in Room S2 15 minutes prior to each service.

### Everyone bring:

- \* Change of clothes
- \* Two towels
- \* Plastic bag for wet clothing

### Ladies bring:

- \* Shorts & a shirt (**please do not wear white**)
- \* Undergarments

### Men bring:

- \* Swimming trunks or shorts & a T-shirt

### Available at the church:

- \* Restrooms and dressing areas for men and women near the baptistry

*Capital*

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**SUBMERGED**

**Answers to Questions About Baptism**