



CLEAR CREEK
COMMUNITY CHURCH

ADULT BAPTISM PACKET

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BAPTISM PROCESS OVERVIEW

Congratulations! Clear Creek Community Church celebrates your interest in baptism! Baptism is a significant step in your spiritual journey and we look forward to sharing this experience with you.

If you wish to be baptized at Clear Creek Community Church, below is the process for scheduling and preparing for your baptism:

- Read ALL the contents of this packet.**
- Complete/Submit Baptism Request Form and Testimony.**
- Capture your testimony.**
- Be baptized.**

If you have any questions or concerns as you work through this process we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to call! We look forward to celebrating your baptism with you!

Greg Poore
Associate Pastor
gpoore@clearcreek.org
281-338-5433 x 204

BAPTISM CALENDAR

Capturing Your Baptism Testimony

A time will need to be set-up to record your baptism testimony – this may be audio or video. When you have completed your baptism Study Guide, call Greg Poore at 281-338-5433 *204 or email at gpoore@clearcreek.org.

Baptism Services

The Programming Team is involved in scheduling baptism so we have to work with them on the scheduling.

We will try to accommodate your request for dates and times but your flexibility is appreciated. Please keep this in mind before informing your guests of your service date / time. We will let you know your assigned service time as soon as we can.

ADULT BAPTISM STUDY GUIDE

People from CCCC come from various denominational backgrounds with different points of view of baptism. This information should help you understand a biblical point of view whether you are new to the Christian faith or you are a Christian but have not been baptized after accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Who Should be Baptized

All who have trusted Jesus Christ as their savior should be baptized. Baptism was given expressly and exclusively to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is an expression of one's faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Essential Beliefs about the Person of Jesus

1. Jesus is God.

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. Jesus became a man.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:7 - but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men

3. Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Essential Beliefs about the Work of Jesus

1. Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life.

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. Jesus died as a substitute for me.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

3. Jesus rose from the grave.

Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:17 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

ADULT BAPTISM STUDY GUIDE

What Baptism Means and Doesn't Mean

Baptism is a symbol of the salvation that has already taken place in your life! Baptism does not save you, only faith in Jesus Christ alone saves.

Baptism is an outward sign that a person has entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what takes place inwardly at the time of salvation:

- Acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Sharing in His death and resurrection.
- Being symbolically washed clean.
- Identifying yourself as part of his church

Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is also an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God.

A good way to understand baptism is to look at a wedding ring. A wedding ring is worn by people who've committed their life in marriage to their mate. The ring doesn't make them married but shows a reality (their marriage) that has already taken place and so it is with baptism. Baptism doesn't save you. It shows your salvation in Jesus Christ has taken place and that you are declaring your participation in and accountability to the body of Christ, the church.

The "When" of Baptism

One should be baptized as soon as possible after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Acts 8:35-38 - Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture 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?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

Acts 2:41 – Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

The "Why" of Baptism

Christ commanded it.

Matthew 28:19-20 – "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

ADULT BAPTISM STUDY GUIDE

It follows Christ's example.

Mark 1:9-10 – “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”

It's a public profession of your faith.

Acts 18:8 – “Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.”

The “How” of Baptism

The Greek word for baptism, *baptizo*, literally means to immerse or dunk, and this is the word used to describe Jesus' own baptism by John the Baptist. Because Jesus modeled this act for us, we baptize by immersion. The bible gives us the method of baptism in the baptism of Jesus.

Other Methods of Baptism

Clear Creek Community Church accepts other methods of baptism, such as sprinkling, if the person accepted Christ *before* the baptism and knew they were making a public profession of his acceptance of Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Matthew 3:16 – As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.”

Colossians 2:12 – For when you were baptized you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.”

Infant Baptism

A person has not been baptized, as explained in scripture, if he was christened as an infant or child (or at any age) before beginning a personal relationship with Christ. While we celebrate the love and blessing of parents, in the Bible we see baptism occurring only after a person has made a conscious choice to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Being Baptized Again

CCCC recommends that you be baptized if you have not been baptized by immersion AFTER accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You don't need to be baptized again if you have been baptized after accepting Jesus Christ but have struggled and are now renewing your commitment. If you are seeking to rededicate your life to God the best action is to get connected in a small group and focus on growing your relationship with God through developing the Seven G's in your life.

ADULT BAPTISM STUDY GUIDE

Elders Position Paper

Included in this packet is the Clear Creek Community Church Elder's position paper on baptism. It contains further explanation and additional scriptural references you may find helpful.

BAPTISM MEETING/TESTIMONY

Testimony Capture

Baptism is a public profession of your faith. Recording or videoing allows you to share your story in a concise and powerful way. This video is meaningful to you and the congregation, you will be glad you did it!

Below is a good outline to get you started and to help you organize what you want to say:

1. Introduce yourself.
2. A little about your life before accepting Jesus Christ.
3. How/when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
4. How He has affected your life since then.
5. Optional – thank no more than one or two people, perhaps your small group, who have helped you in your spiritual journey.
6. Your public profession. Some examples:
 - I'm here today to let you know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.
 - Today I publicly profess my faith in Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of my life.
 - I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

Attire for Videotaping - If you are videoed, for lighting purposes, **please do not wear white**. Also, please do not wear tank tops, thin straps, low shirts, etc. The video is shot at a tight angle and it looks like you don't have anything on.

Please Practice but be Prepared to Receive Input - Please be planning what you want to say, but we urge you not to memorize word-for-word. We will be listening to your story as if we were a person coming to the church for the first time, and adjustments may need to be made so that your story is as clear and concise as possible.

Not Too Much Detail - You will be telling your story as only you can tell it, but this will not be the environment for you to confess all of your sins or the sins of others in your life. For example, this is not the environment to tell intricate details about previous drug use, complicated divorces, sexual history, etc. Your small group environment is the best place to share intimate details about your life. You have established trust and transparency there, and that has not been established for the church service environment in front of hundreds.

Please Be Clear About Your Salvation - Your walk with Jesus Christ is definitely a process, but you need to be able to express when you recognized that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. You don't have to know the exact date but there was a time when you accepted Jesus Christ and you need to express that clearly.

Help - If you are having trouble with what you want to say or can't get your story down to less than 90 seconds, please email me or call the church office. Please know that we want you to enjoy the process, and want those hearing your story to learn about Jesus Christ through you.

Remember... don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

BAPTISM DAY INFORMATION

Arrival Time and Location

You will be given instructions on where to meet the day of your baptism. Please arrive at the location you are given 30 minutes before the service begins so we can find you and cover some details of the actual service.

Clothing

Wear conservative clothing, i.e., bathing suit with shorts and t-shirt. (no white, please) Bring a towel, plastic bag for your wet clothes and some dry clothing.

Contact Person

On baptism day, if for any reason you can not be there as scheduled, please contact Greg Poore at 281-455-3418 if your baptism is at Egret Bay or Chris Alston at 281-798-0372 if your baptism is at Clear Springs and let them know ASAP.

Remember: Your baptism is a scheduled part of the service.

A Perspective on Baptism

By the Elders of Clear Creek Community Church

Baptism is the testimony that one has renounced the old life of self-centeredness and has begun a new life of following Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We view baptism as a practice of obedience to Jesus Christ. Baptism is a physical symbol of the spiritual reality of what Christ does in a believer's life. Christ baptizes a believer in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11), cleanses a believer from sin (Acts 22:16), and gives the believer a new life—a resurrected life (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12). When one places faith in Jesus Christ, the believer should seek to be baptized as soon as possible as a way of obeying Jesus (Acts 8:36, Acts 16:33, Acts 18:8) and publicly proclaiming faith in Jesus. Baptism is so important that the New Testament assumes everyone who believes in Jesus will be baptized. Baptism is not essential to salvation (Titus 3:5, Luke 23:39-43).

In the New Testament, baptism always follows personal faith (Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12-13). We only baptize people who have personal faith in Jesus, therefore infants are not baptized. While infant baptism is often meaningful to parents, the person baptized did not experience scriptural baptism. Believers baptized as infants should seek New Testament baptism after coming into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith. We encourage “parent dedications” where parents dedicate themselves and their children to God through a brief, but meaningful commitment in a worship service of the church.

Baptism in the Bible is done by immersion. The word in the New Testament translated “baptism” actually means ‘to immerse, or dip under. The New Testament seems to indicate Jesus was immersed in his baptism (Matthew 3:16). Only immersion adequately symbolizes death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12). Those who were baptized in some other way, other than immersion, are encouraged to seek baptism by immersion in keeping with the Biblical pattern. However, the mode of baptism (immersion, pouring or sprinkling) is not viewed as an essential matter for membership at Clear Creek Community Church.

ADULT BAPTISM REQUEST FORM

Please complete all information requested. This information is important to us in communicating with you as we prepare for your baptism. Please check your email often as this is how we will often correspond.

- I read and understand the Baptism Study Guide.
- I read all contents of this packet and have a clear understanding of what is required of me in order to be baptized.
- I completed my testimony (back page), included it with this application, and or emailed it to gpoore@clearcreek.org.
- I called Greg Poore to schedule the recording of my testimony.
- I feel that I am ready to be baptized.
- I have questions and would like to speak with someone before proceeding with my baptism. Please contact me at the number listed below.

State briefly how and when you accepted Christ as your Savior.

State briefly why you want to be baptized.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Home _____ **Cell** _____ **Work** _____

After completing this form, you may fax it to Greg Poore at 281-557-2391, bring it to the church office, or mail it to CCCC, 999 Egret Bay Blvd. N., League City, TX 77573 – Attn: Greg Poore. If you have questions or concerns regarding baptism, please contact Greg at 281-338-5433 x 204 or email gpoore@clearcreek.org.

