



Dear Christian,

I am excited you are considering being baptized. For over 2,000 years, people who have converted to Christianity have been baptized in Jesus' name. There is nothing mystical about baptism; it doesn't "save" you. Only Jesus can save you from your sins (Ephesians 2:8-9). Baptism is simply an outward expression of an inward commitment you have made to Christ.

What is the meaning of baptism?

- **Baptism illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection.**

During baptism, the water is a picture of the grave. When you are dunked under the water it symbolizes that you are a believer in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

- **Baptism illustrates being placed into the body of Christ.**

The immersion into water symbolizes how that when you received Jesus as your Savior, you were placed into the body of Christ, which is composed of everyone who has trusted Christ as their Savior.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:13

- **Baptism illustrates your new life in Christ.**

Baptism also pictures the believer's death to his old life and beginning of his new life in Christ.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

Why Should You Be Baptized?

- **To follow Christ's example.**

Jesus was baptized because He wanted to demonstrate His submission to the Father. It was symbolic of His obedience to God's plan for our salvation through His death, burial and resurrection.

- **Christ commanded you to be baptized.**

Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20

- **It demonstrates the reality of your conversion.**

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:41

And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8

When they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Acts 8:12

Why Baptism By Immersion?

- **Because Jesus was baptized that way.**

Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water: and, behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting upon Him. Matthew 3:16

- **Every baptism recorded in the Bible was by immersion.**

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...Acts 8:38–39

- **The word “baptize” means to immerse in water.**

“Baptize” comes from the Greek word *baptizo* which means, “to dip or immerse, to plunge or sink into.”

- **Baptism by immersion best symbolizes a burial and a resurrection.**

The action of being put under the water pictures being buried with Christ. The action of coming out of the water pictures being raised with Christ’s resurrection.

Baptism declares your faith, shares Christ’s burial and resurrection, symbolizes death to your old life, your inclusion in God’s family and it celebrates your new life in Christ! So...What are you waiting for? Fill out the next page with your family information and write out your Christian testimony. When you have completed this packet, turn it in to one of Bay Farm Community Church’s pastors.

I can’t wait to dunk you in Jesus name!

Pastor John

Personal Information Page

*All the information in this packet will be kept confidential.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone numbers: Home: _____

Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Birth date: _____

Age: _____

*If you are under 18 years old please give us your parents' names and contact information.

Parents' names: _____

Parents' phone numbers: _____

Your Christian Testimony

At Bay Farm Community Church we ask everyone that wants to be baptized or desires to join our church to write out their salvation testimony. We make this request for two important reasons:

First, your written testimony greatly assists BFCC's elders and pastoral staff when they interview you for baptism or church membership. Your written testimony helps BFCC's leadership understand how you came to trust Christ as your personal Savior, and if you are ready to be baptized and/or move forward in the membership process.

Second, your written testimony will help you in a clear and concise manner tell others how you came to receive Jesus as your personal Savior. One of the greatest Christians in history – the Apostle Paul, loved to use his testimony (See Acts chapters 9, 22, 26) to lead us to Jesus.

Below are some questions to guide you as you write out your testimony:

1st - Describe your life before you became a Christian. (Don't spend a lot of time on this step.)

- *What were you like before you were saved?*
- *How did you know you were a sinner in need of a Savior?*
- *What event, person or message drew you to Jesus?*

2nd - Describe in detail your salvation experience.

- *When and where did you receive Christ?*
- *Who helped you receive Christ as your personal Savior?*
- *What Scripture verses helped you make your decision?*

3rd - Describe how your life has changed since you became a Christian.

- *What has changed in your life since you trusted Christ?*
- *What assurance do you have that you are a child of God?*
- *What is your favorite Bible verse?*

*As you write out or type out your Christian testimony please try to make it legible and do your best to keep it to one to two pages in length. Please sign and date it, and attach it to the Personal Information Page.