



A GUIDE FOR THOSE WANTING TO BE BAPTIZED

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. Matthew 28:19-20

Who Can Be Baptized?

Baptism is for followers of Jesus. You should wait to be baptized until you have joined God's family. You should wait because when you are baptized you are saying (OUTWARDLY) that Jesus is in your heart and life (INWARDLY).

John 1:12 Some people did accept Jesus. They believed in Him. To them He gave the right to become children of God.

John 10:47 Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did!

The followers of Jesus were baptized after they joined God's family. When you invite Jesus into your life, you are joining God's family. Once you are a member of God's family, you can be baptized.

Baptism is an important step in any follower of Jesus' life. We often compare it to a wedding ceremony: it is the outward celebration of something that is intensely personal and spiritual. Just as people invite many friends and family to their wedding...one should have a large invitation list for their baptism, because this is a vow before God as well!

One's baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality. That outward ceremony (or sometimes called Baptism Service) ought to be special for each person. At the same time, there are some basic components that should be a part of that time. They would include a time of explanation, a time of sharing about the faith of the person being baptized, prayer and celebration. We will look at those closer below:

Explanation of Baptism

This is for those gathered. It provides a great place to share the Good News message, which is the catalyst for any baptism. It also allows us to clarify:

- 1) that baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality
- 2) that baptism doesn't save an individual
- 3) that the water is not "holy" or "special" water and
- 4) that the act of baptism is an act of obedience to our Lord's command.

The Confession of the Person to be Baptized

"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven. But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33 *NLT*

Just like Jesus said in the passage above, those who follow Jesus need to share openly and publicly about their commitment to follow Him. That's an opportunity that should be offered at one's baptism. Take advantage of this opportunity!

Typically we do that by four questions to ask during a baptism—typically in interview style when everyone is in the water:

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself...
2. How did you connect with Los Altos Grace?
3. How did you come to know Jesus personally?
4. Why do you want to be baptized today?

Then after you share your answers, the person baptizing you will re-affirm your confession again with a statement something like:

So it is your desire to tell these witnesses and the whole world that you want to follow Jesus—as your personal Savior and Lord. This Jesus who came to earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for your sins and rose again on the third day to defeat sin and death so that you could have life eternal. If so, answer by saying "I do."

Then you'll say "I do," and be asked to kneel down in the water.

Then the baptizer says:

"Based on your profession of faith (the cue for grabbing the nose)...

I baptize you in the name of the Father (dunk), in the name of the Son (dunk) and in the name of the Holy Spirit (dunk)."

Prayer & Celebration

After you get baptized, then we will say a prayer for you! After the prayer, everyone will celebrate you and your baptism!

Final Details: We will ask you to show up for the baptism an hour early so that the person baptizing you can do a "dry-run" to show how we will do the baptizing in the water. Below is a helpful checklist for what you will need to do in preparation for getting baptized.

My Baptism Checklist:

- I am already a follower of Jesus
 - I let the church know my desire to get baptized
 - I have my questions about baptism answered from the Bible through a study or class
 - I have asked someone to baptize me (who is already a baptized follower of Jesus)
 - I let the church know whom I would like to baptize me
 - I know where the baptism is taking place _____
 - I know what time the baptism is taking place _____
 - I have put together a list of friends & family to invite to my baptism
 - I have invited my list of friends & family to the baptism
 - I have posted my invitation on social media
 - I know where & what time I need to be at the baptism to be ready (be on time please)
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- I have given thought to the questions I will be asked

Items To Bring to the Time of the Baptism:

- Black or solid dark t-shirt (to get wet)
- Swimsuit or shorts (modest, to get wet)
- Flip-flops
- Towel
- Change of clothes (for after baptism, don't forget under garments, shoes/socks)
- Brush/comb
- Hair drier if desired
- Makeup
- Deodorant/cologne /perfume
- Be Prepared to answer the 4 questions:
 1. Tell us a little bit about yourself...
 2. How did you connect with Los Altos Grace?
 3. How did you come to know Jesus personally?
 4. Why do you want to be baptized today?