

Vine & Branch Church



Hope, Love & Purpose
through Christ



Growth Module Series

Seeking Baptism 6-2018

*"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **Acts 2: 38***

We are so thankful that you are considering Baptism here at Vine & Branch Church. This course is designed to help you explore the Biblical significance of your baptism, as you make this public statement of your faith in Jesus Christ.

Water Baptism is a sacrament of the church, commanded by our Lord to signify the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ and is to be administered to believers as a declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

1) Who should be Baptized?

Read **Mark 16: 15 – 16** and **Acts 8: 12**

The Bible clearly teaches that baptism is reserved for those already possessing a faith in Christ. Baptism is NOT the means by which we are saved.

According to the following verses, how are we saved?

Romans 10:9

Ephesians 2: 8 – 9

Titus 3: 4 – 7

Consequently, Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith in Jesus Christ.

Notice other examples of baptism in the New Testament. As people came to faith, they were baptized.

- John the Baptist baptized those who repented. (**Mark 1: 5**)
- On Pentecost, 3,000 new believers were baptized (**Acts 2: 41**)
- The Samaritans believed and were baptized (**Acts 8: 12**)
- Ethiopian eunuch believed and was baptized (**Acts 8: 35 – 38**)
- Paul was baptized after he came to faith in Jesus (**Acts 9: 18**)
- Cornelius and some others believed and were baptized (**Acts 10: 47**)
- Lydia and her household were baptized (**Acts 16:15**)
- Philippian jailor and his household (**Acts 16:33**)
- Many Corinthians were baptized (**Acts 18:8**)
- Ephesian disciples were baptized (**Acts 19:5**)

All the biblical accounts show that water baptism is for those who already believe in Christ as Savior.

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (**Mark 16:16**)

2) Why should we be Baptized?

- **The Bible commands it & the disciples practiced it.**
- **Jesus modeled it for us (Mark 1: 9 – 11)**
The baptism of Jesus was an act of obedience to the Heavenly Father. Jesus desired that His every action please His Father. God spoke in approval with the presence of the Holy Spirit, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- **Baptism is a picture of our identification with Christ.**
(Romans 6: 3 – 10)

How are we identified with Christ?

D_____ (going into the water) (vs 3)

B_____ (total submersion into the water) (vs 4)

R_____ (coming up out of the water) (vs 5)

The word **Baptism** comes from the Greek word, "*Baptismo*" which means "to immerse or dip" and symbolically represents our identification as a new creation in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 tells us

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here!

Baptism symbolizes that our old selves are washed away, and in the coming out of the water **our new selves emerge!** This is a beautiful picture of what faith in Christ has done for us!

3. How should we be Baptized?

The Free Methodist Church agrees with all three methods of Baptism: *immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.*

We are willing to conduct whichever you prefer or meets your physical needs.

Full immersion most vividly pictures the "burial" of your OLD self and the "rising" of your NEW self which affirms your NEW relationship with Christ.

4. What should I do to be Baptized?

- Prepare yourself Spiritually by prayer and meditation on the above scriptures.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to "***search your heart***" (**Psalm 139:23**) and confess and repent of all known sin to God to be sure you are in relationship with Jesus through Faith.
- Invite your friends and family to the Baptism Service, as a testimony of your faith.
- Prepare a brief testimony of your faith that will be videotaped and played during the service. (See application)

5. What should I wear?

- Wear modest clothes that can get wet. (T-shirt and shorts or sweatpants)
- Women should avoid white T-shirts as they may be transparent when wet.
- Bring a towel to dry off.
- Bring a change of clothes for after the Baptism.

The next Baptism Service will be held on _____ .



Vine and Branch Church
A Free Methodist Congregation
Baptism Application

When you are finished with this Application, please return it to church. Thank you!

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Testimony

Have you accepted Christ as your personal Savior? Yes No

If you answered yes to the previous question, please write a brief summary of your personal testimony and include the following:

1. What was your life like before you received Christ as your Savior?
2. How and when did you accept Christ as your Savior?
3. How has salvation in Jesus Christ impacted your life?
4. Why do you desire to be baptized?