

Baptism Handbook



SHILOH TERRACE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptism Handbook

Intro

Thank you for your interest in baptism at Shiloh Terrace! We hope this baptism guide provides you with a clear understanding of STBC's theological convictions regarding baptism, which are rooted in the bible.



While there are different views of baptism held within evangelical Christianity, Shiloh practices believer's baptism by immersion. We believe that baptism is an outward sign of our inward faith in the person and work of Christ.

IN THIS GUIDE, WE WILL ANSWER:

- What is baptism?
- When should I be baptized?
- How should I be baptized?
- Why do I need to be baptized to be a member?
- What should I expect during my baptism at Shiloh?

What is Baptism?

Baptism is one of the two ordinances along with the Lord's Supper Jesus Christ gave as visible signs of Grace.

Baptism is a response to the person and work of Jesus Christ in a person's life. It is an outward sign of a person's inward faith. Baptism does not save a person, but rather, displays with someone already believes. It is our public proclamation that we have been saved by the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

In the Bible, baptism is a command from Jesus to obey, a symbol of our Union with Christ, and a celebration of Jesus' Saving Grace in our own lives and within the life of our church family.

BAPTISM IS A COMMAND

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will be and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

Baptism is not optional for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, but rather, baptism is something that should be done by Believers as an act of obedience to the commands of scripture.



"Baptism is a response to the person and work of Jesus Christ in a person's life. It is an outward sign of a person's inward faith."

BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL

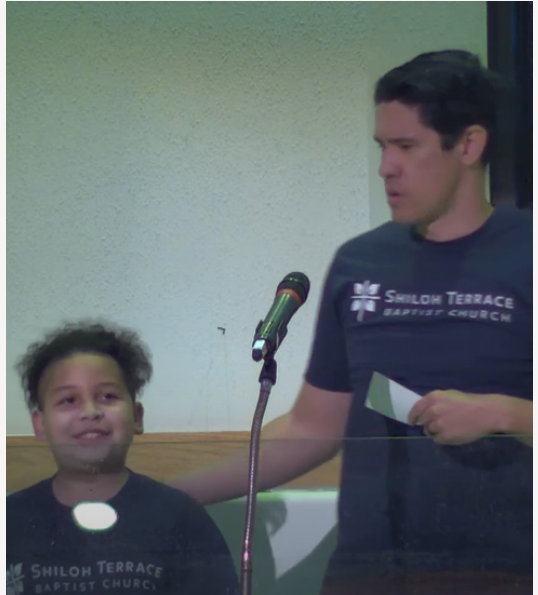
Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

Baptism Symbolizes three primary truths:

- The believer's union with Christ in his death and Resurrection
- The Believers cleansing in the washing away of sin
- The new life in Christ the believer walks in

Our baptism puts the truth of the Gospel on display for all to see. Baptism is a picture of dying, washing away sin, and being raised to new life in Jesus Christ.



What Baptism Is Not

While we consider will baptism is (command, symbol, and celebration), we also want to acknowledge what baptism is not:

- Baptism is not salvation
- Baptism is not necessary for salvation and does not add anything to Salvation
- Baptism is not for Perfect People

While a Believer should seek to be obedient to the command of Christ and be baptized as a response to the person and work of Jesus Christ in their life, baptism is not necessary for salvation and does not elevate someone's standing before God.

Why Be Baptized?

Baptism is not merely a responsibility in the life of a believer, but a privilege. It is a privilege to publicly Proclaim Jesus Christ as savior, lord, and king.

- To obey the commands of Christ in the New Testament
- To follow Christ's example in being baptized
- To show a person is a disciple of Christ



Who & When Should Someone Be Baptized?

At Shiloh, we believe that in the New Testament, baptism takes place after a person repents from their sin and places their faith in Jesus. If someone believes in Jesus as Savior and Lord, that person should be baptized.

At Shiloh, we offer the first two Sundays of every month for opportunities to be baptized throughout the year. We Believe baptism should take place within the context of a local church family, so we offer the first two Sundays, along with other opportunities to be baptized. As you interact with our staff regarding baptism, be sure to ask what opportunities are available for baptism.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. - Acts 8:35-38

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. - Acts 2:41

Baptism and Membership at Shiloh

Believer's baptism is a requirement for membership at Shiloh terrace. We practice Believers baptism by immersion.

Believer's' baptism is required for membership at Shiloh because part of the membership process is the church affirming someone's faith in Christ. Baptism is someone's public proclamation of his/her personal faith in Jesus. For us to affirm someone's profession of faith in Jesus, that person must have publicly made their own profession of faith and baptism first.



Baptism Process at Shiloh

STEP 1: TELL US YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED

You can:

1. Come to the Next Steps area after the worship service and tell a minister or volunteer by your desire to be baptized.
2. You can complete the application for baptism digitally.
3. Periodically throughout the year, we will offer new member classes. you can find out when on stbc.org/events, and you can let a minister know at the end of the class that you desire to move forward with baptism.
4. You can email, call, or text as a member of our staff. you can find our contacts at stbc.org/staff

STEP 2: GET BAPTIZED

Please arrive at the correct place and time as communicated throughout the process.

Don't worry about any questions or concerns you may have. We will be with you every step of the way, communicating with you about what you need to do next.

FAQ: Believer's Baptism & Infant Baptism

1. Believer's baptism (credobaptism)

Believer's baptism is an outward profession of And inward confession of faith in Jesus.

2. Infant Baptism (paedobaptism)

Different churches practice infant baptism in varied ways and for varied reasons:

- **Belief in baptismal regeneration**

In this case, baptism is the means of salvation for an infant. An infant is saved (regenerated) by being baptized. infant baptism is viewed as a means of saving grace.

- We do not follow this practice because we believe the Bible teaches salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

- Keeping church tradition

In this case, baptism of infants is considered the New Covenant equivalent to Old Testament circumcision of infants. infants are baptized to show their participation in the church.

- We believe the old Covenant practice of circumcision expired with the coming of Jesus and the New Covenant. So, we do not practice this form of baptism.