

## OO+ church Baptism Preparation Guide

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

*“Water baptism (Matt. 3:6,11,13-16; Mark 1:5-9; Luke 3:16,21; John 1:26,33) is an ordinance that is only for a person who has, by God’s grace, believed in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and become his disciple (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:44-48; 16:14-15, 32- 33; 1 Cor. 1:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27).*

*Therefore, in obedience to Christ’s command (Matt. 3:15; 28:19; Acts 2:38) and as a testimony to God, the Church, oneself, and the world, a believer should be immersed in water (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:5,10; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).*

*Water baptism is a visual demonstration (Rom. 6:3) of a person’s union with Christ in his death and resurrection (Rom. 6:4-5). It signifies that a disciple’s former way of life has been put to death, and that they are now free from the curse and ruling power of sin over their lives. (Rom. 6:6-11).”*

### Part 1: Who should get baptized?

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Baptism is only for those who have believed in Christ. It is **“only for a person who has, by God’s grace, believed in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and become his disciple”**. Baptism therefore always comes after conversion.

#### 1. The Gospel and God’s Redemptive Plan

*Romans 3:23 “... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”*

*Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

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

#### 2. Jesus The Savior

The Bible shows us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

*Matthew 3:16-17 “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”*

There is only one God, and He exists in three persons: 'God the Father', 'God the Son', and 'God the Holy Spirit'. This is why Jesus commanded us to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

From the very beginning of this world, 'God the Father' made us, loves us, chose us to be his children, and sent 'his only Son Jesus' and 'Holy Spirit' to accomplish our salvation.

'God the Son' became a man, lived a sinless and righteous life. However, he died on the cross in our place for our sins, was punished, and rose from the grave to save us.

'God the Holy Spirit', sent to us by 'the Father' and 'the Son', lives in every believer to give glory to Jesus, to make our dead heart alive, and to give us assurance of salvation, confidence as God's children, and power to live a life to follow God.

- Do you believe in the One True God who exists in Three Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?
- Do you believe in the Father's plan of salvation through Jesus, and the presence and work of the Holy Spirit among us?

### 3. Repentance and Faith

*Acts 2:36-38 "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 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 receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

The word "**repent**" means to realize you have sinned against God, to rely on God's salvation, and to make a 180-degree-turn away from sin and look toward God. Living as a Christian is not about trying to save yourself by the good things you do or by your own effort, but about depending on the grace and the work of Jesus. Also, true repentance is a lifestyle of repenting and being aware of the weakness and sinfulness in you, while at the same time depending on God.

**Is there anything that keeps you from repenting to God?**

- Repenting from worshipping idols (living a life depending on someone or something other than God)
- Pride (the attitude of that you can save yourself and you do not need help)
- Repenting from the sins in the past, guiltiness and regrets

### 4. Christ's Lordship

*Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

*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."*

Anyone who wants to follow Jesus must follow him as Lord - this means Jesus is the master of your life and He has the authority to make decisions for your life. We must be willing to deny ourselves (we are not the master of our life), and obey Jesus in all that He commands.

## How do you answer the following questions?

1. Do you believe you are a sinner and that you need Jesus?
2. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the One True God?
3. Do you believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins to save you?
4. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
5. Are you ready to confess your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you willing to obey Jesus as your master?
6. Are you ready to repent, be baptized, and start a new life with Jesus?

### *Ephesians 2:1-10*

*1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of our works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

## **Part 2: What does Baptism symbolize?**

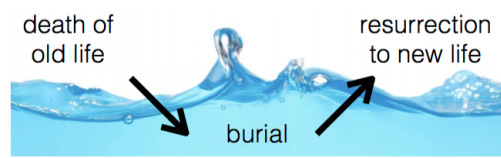
*Romans 6:3-4, 6, 9-11 “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ...We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ...We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

### **1. Baptism shows we died to sin with Christ**

*Baptism shows that, when we are baptized in Christ, our “former way of life has been put to death” and we have been set free “from the curse and ruling power of sin”. In other words, our old self which could never stop sinning has been killed and buried with Jesus. Now we become free from constantly sinning. On the other hand, every day we must continually remember we are dead to sin. (Colossians 3:5)*

*Dead to sin means we no longer need to live a lifestyle of sin. It also means, we are completely free from God’s judgement and from guilt. (e.g. Noah’s Ark and Flood)*

### **2. Baptism shows we were raised to life with Christ**



Baptism shows that we have been united to Christ through faith in him as our Lord and Saviour. And, just as Christ died and was raised, so in him we have also died to sin and have been raised to walk in a new life with Him.

### 3. Baptism shows our sins have been forgiven

*Submersion under the water during baptism is a symbol that the person being baptized has experienced God's judgment in Christ. In other words, because of what Christ did on the cross, the judgment of God fell on Christ on the cross and the person being baptized has been forgiven by God.*

### 4. Baptism shows we have received the Holy Spirit

*Baptism is only for believers in Jesus Christ, and therefore it is a sign that someone has believed and already received the Holy Spirit.*

### 5. Baptism shows that we are God's children

*Baptism is a symbol that someone has been united with Christ and His body, therefore it shows that we are a child of God.*

### 6. Baptism shows that we are members of God's family

Baptism is a "**testimony to...the Church**", which means that it is done by the local church to declare publicly and show their agreement that the person being baptized has been united with Christ and his body (the church).

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

*Your baptism ceremony will consist of two parts.*

*First you will be asked to make your public confession of faith. You will be asked:  
"Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?"  
"Do you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior?"*

*Second, you will get into the water. The one baptizing you will say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" and then you will be let under the water and pulled back up.*

Things to bring:

- Towel
- Changing Clothes
- Dark colored T-shirt (specially for ladies, avoid white T-shirt)
- Shorts (bathing suits)

### **当日知っておくべき事：**

あなたの洗礼式は二つのパートで構成されています。

まず初めにあなたは、自分自身の信仰の公の告白をする為にある質問があります。「あなたはイエスがキリストで、生きておられる神のひとり子だと信じますか？」「あなたはイエスが自分の主と救い主として受け入れますか？」

つぎに、あなたは水の中に入ります。洗礼を施す人（通常、牧師ともう1人）が「あなたを父と、子と、聖霊の名を通してあなたにバプテスマを施します」と言い、あなたを水の下に沈めてから引き上げます。

### **持って来るもの：**

- タオル
- 着替え
- 暗めの色のシャツ (白は透けるので、女性は白シャツは着ない様をお願い致します)
- 短いショーツ (または水着)

### **場所・日時：**

季節や状況により牧師と相談して決まります。