

HOPE EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY CHURCH BAPTISMAL APPLICATION



BAPTISMAL APPLICATION & ORIENTATION FORM

We are overjoyed that you have made the decision to be baptized! Through this application process, we hope you gain a true understanding of the baptism ceremony while realizing how this will be one of the most important steps in your Christian walk with Christ!

If you are looking for a home church, we welcome you to consider Hope Evangelical Community Church to be the place where you, your family and friends can attend to hear and be blessed by Gods word and the love of Gods people.

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT WATER BAPTISM?

There are five questions usually asked about water baptism. Let's see how the Bible answers these questions.

■ *Who should be baptized?*

1. **Those who have repented from their sins, and have a personal faith in Christ** (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:15, Acts 8:36-37).
2. **Those who have committed their lives to be disciples of Jesus Christ** (Matthew 28:19-20); Note the qualifications for becoming a disciple in Luke 14:26-27.
3. **Examples from the bible.** In every case those who had placed their faith in Jesus Christ were baptized. The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37), the new Christians at Samaria (Acts 8:12), The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:35-38), The Apostle Paul (Acts 9:17-18), Cornelius and his company (Acts 11:17-18; Acts 10:47-48), the Corinthians (Acts 18:8), the Ephesians (Acts 19:1-5).
4. **Household baptisms:** Stephanas (1 Corinthians 1:16, 16:15), the Jailer (Acts 16:31-34), Crispus (Acts 18:8), Lydia (Acts 16:14-15). In each of these cases, all of the household members first placed their faith in Christ for salvation, then were baptized. **Infants cannot do this.** There is not one instance of infant baptism in the bible.

■ *How should we be baptized?*

1. **By immersion in water.**
 - a) "Baptism" from the Greek "Baptizo" means literally "to dip", to "plunge under", "to immerse".
 - b) Examples in the bible showing immersion under water can be found in...
 - John 3:22-23 (John the Baptist).
 - Mark 1:9-11 (Jesus).
 - Acts 8:38-39 (Ethiopian Eunuch).
 - c) Must be symbolic of Burial and Resurrection (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12).
2. **In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - a. "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). This is symbolic of our identification with God.)
3. **For circumcision of the heart.**

In the Old Testament, circumcision was an outward symbol of identification with God's people. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and sealed it with the sign of circumcision. In the New Testament, the outward symbol becomes Water baptism (Colossians 2:11-12)

■ *Where should we be baptized?*

Wherever there's enough water (John 3:22-23).

■ *Why should we be baptized?*

1. Because the Lord commanded us to (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. Because it shows we have a clear conscience before God (1 Peter 3:20-21).
3. Because it is a testimony to the world of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
4. Because it is symbolic of burying the "old person" (Romans 6:4-7).
5. Because it is a testimony to Satan's defeat (Colossians 2:12, 15).
6. Because it is a public acknowledgement of repentance and faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32-33).
7. Because it is a testimony to the oneness of true believers in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).
8. Because it shows our willingness to accept God's purpose for our lives (Luke 7:30).

■ *When should we be water baptized?*

1. "Now" (Acts 22:16).
2. Because Biblical examples: in each case there was no delay...
 - Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:35-37, Acts 9:17-18, Acts 10:48, Acts 16:30-34, Acts 19:4-5
3. As soon as you have repented from your sin and received Christ as your Savior (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-37).

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PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

A. Testimony

Begin to ask the Lord now to guide you in what He would have you to say in your testimony. Some things that you should include in this are: **“Please keep it under 5 mins”**

1. How and/or where you came to know Christ.
2. A Bible verse that has become meaningful to you.
3. What this step in your life means to you.
4. An area of your life that you desire to grow in as you commit your life to Him.

B. Clothing

You can come to church dressed in what you will have on in the baptismal tank. Woman should not wear all white (pants and top). Bring a towel and a dry change of clothes. We will supply a baptismal gown to put on over your all white attire.

C. Arrival Time

30 minutes prior to service. Some one will be awaiting your arrival to help better prepare you for the ceremony.

D. Spiritual Preparations

1. Take time to search God’s Word on baptism. One suggestion might be to read and meditate on Romans 6.
 - a. Romans 6:1-11 (the meaning of baptism)
 - b. Romans 16:12-23 (how this should affect the way I live)
2. You may want to fast all or part of the day as an expression of devotion to the Lord and after the baptism service plan on a celebration meal with family.
3. That evening after all of the activity, spend some time being quiet before the Lord reflecting on all He has done for you.

E. Invitations

This is an important time in your Christian life; a public declaration of your faith in God! Don’t forget to invite those people who are important to you that you wish to share this event with.

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BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM

HOPE EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Please initial each item as you are able:

_____ I am trusting Jesus Christ alone for my salvation, desiring that He be Lord of every area of my life.

_____ I am free from sexually immoral sin/sex outside of marriage. **(Not living with boyfriend/girlfriend). “Refer back to who should be baptized.”**

_____ I have read page 2, “What does the Bible Teach about Water Baptism?” and have looked up and read all the Bible verses referred to on that page.

_____ I have read page 3, “Preparation for Baptism”. I have completed the Baptismal Questionnaire.

_____ I am 18 years of age or older.
OR

_____ I have my parent’s permission to be baptized. (Under 12 years of age)

Signature of Parent: _____

Were you born: Male _____ or Female _____

I want to be baptized as a public testimony:

- Confessing that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord
- Renouncing the devil and all his works
- Desiring to follow Christ in death to self and to walk with Him in the newness of the Spirit-filled life.

(Please Print)Name _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return to the Pastor in person or via email at Hopechurch88@yahoo.com

_____ Your Baptism Application

_____ Your Baptism Questionnaire (including your testimony)

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BAPTISM QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____

- 1. In your own words, briefly describe your understanding of baptism.

_____.

- 2. Why do you want to be baptized?

_____.

- 3. Please write out your own personal testimony (**OPTIONAL, BUT ENCOURAGED**).
Follow the guidelines on the "Preparation for Baptism," and limit yourself to 3-5
minutes or less.

_____.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Contact Pastor @ 508-997-8854 Hopechurch88@yahoo.com

Visit us on our website@ www.hopechurch88.org

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