



# Understanding Baptism

At University Community Church (UCC), we are honored to walk with you in your journey of faith. Baptism is one of the most beautiful and essential steps of obedience to Jesus. Yet, many people are uncertain about what baptism is and why it matters. Baptism is not just a tradition, it's a God-given sign that tells the story of salvation, celebrates your new life in Christ, and marks your commitment to His people.

## What Is Baptism?

Baptism is a visible sign of the invisible grace of the gospel. It was commanded by Christ, practiced by the early church, and continues as a sacred ordinance today. Romans 6:3–4 (ESV) says, "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."

Baptism is a picture of our union with Jesus:

- Going under the water symbolizes dying with Christ.
- Coming out of the water symbolizes new life through His resurrection.

Bobby Jamieson, an author, defines baptism as: "A church's act of affirming and portraying a believer's union with Christ by immersing them in water, and the believer's act of publicly committing to Christ and His people, marking them off from the world."

## Key Points About Baptism

- **Baptism Is a Church's Act:** It is not private or optional but a public affirmation by the church community, authorized by Christ (Matthew 18:18-20).
- **Baptism Involves Immersion:** The Greek word *baptizō* means "to immerse" or "to dip." Full immersion symbolizes death, burial, and resurrection with Christ.
- **Baptism Is the Believer's Act:** It follows repentance and faith (Acts 2:38) and is a personal response of obedience to Jesus.
- **Baptism Is a Public Commitment:** Like a wedding, it announces, "I belong to Jesus. I'm not turning back."
- **Baptism Is Commitment to the Church:** It also means joining His people, the church family (Acts 2:41).
- **Who Should Be Baptized?** Only those who have personally believed in Jesus; baptism follows conscious faith, not infancy (Matthew 28:19-20).

# FAQs & Misconceptions About Baptism

## *Q1. Does baptism save?*

No. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9). Baptism is a sign that salvation has already happened—like a wedding ring shows marriage but doesn't cause it.

## *Q2. What if I was baptized as a baby—should I be baptized again?*

Infants cannot personally repent and believe, so baptism must follow personal faith (Acts 2:38). A believer's baptism later is not "rebaptism" but your first biblical baptism.

## *Q3. Can someone be baptized more than once?*

Usually not. If your first baptism followed genuine faith, no second is needed. But if not (e.g., sprinkling or unbiblical form), then baptism by immersion as a believer may be appropriate.

## *Q4. What if I don't feel ready?*

It's normal to feel hesitant. The key is whether you have trusted Jesus and want to obey Him. Baptism is for all who repent and believe—don't wait for perfect feelings.

## *Q5. What if I'm nervous about standing in front of people?*

That's very common. Baptism isn't performance; it's proclaiming Jesus. Your church family supports you and rejoices with you. You only need to testify sincerely about your faith.

## *Q6. Do I have to be baptized in a church building on Sunday?*

Not necessarily. At UCC, baptisms typically happen in swimming pools at locations like Acholi Inn or Bomah Hotel. The important part: it's done by the church, in community, honoring Christ.

## *Q7. What's the difference between sprinkling and immersion? Does it matter?*

Yes, it matters. Immersion best portrays the gospel—death, burial, resurrection with Christ. The Greek word "baptize" literally means "to immerse," so UCC practices full immersion.

*Q8. What if I've messed up badly since I believed, should I still get baptized?*

Yes! Baptism isn't about your perfection but about what Jesus has done. If you've repented and believed, baptism is your next step. If struggling with sin, seek a pastor's help, but don't delay baptism.

## Baptism Process at UCC.

After a worship song, candidates come forward and are prayed for. Then they answer three questions:

"Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?" — "I do."

"Do you turn from sin, renounce evil, and intend to follow Christ?" — "I do."

"Will you seek to live within the fellowship of His Church, and to serve Him in the world?" — "With the Lord's help, I will."

After the responses, the candidate goes into the water.

The pastor says:

"On your profession of faith in Christ Jesus, and at your own request, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

## Why Baptism Matters

- Strengthens your faith by declaring trust in Jesus publicly.
- Acts as an evangelistic message, showing a life changed by Christ, dead to sin and alive to God.
- At UCC, baptism is required for church membership, marking your commitment to live in fellowship and accountability with God's people.

## Invitation to Baptism

If you have trusted in Christ but not yet been baptized, take this step of joyful obedience. Contact a UCC pastor to begin:

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 [www.uccgulu.ug](http://www.uccgulu.ug)

*"Just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might walk in the newness of life."*  
— Romans 6:4