



Pre-Baptism Discussion

BAPTISM EXPLANATION FROM THE KCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe baptism is a joyful response to the command of Christ that symbolizes our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Thus, baptism in water is the delightful duty of all believers upon their profession of faith. Although we recognize other modes, we encourage baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in order to publicly display our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior through this solemn and beautiful symbol.

WHY DO WE BAPTIZE?

1. Baptism is where faith goes public.

- In baptism we publicly identify with Jesus Christ, His people, and our faith in the gospel message (Acts 2:38). After trusting Christ, baptism is a first step in a lifelong journey of following Jesus.

2. Baptism is a joyful response to the command of Christ.

- Jesus himself was baptized and commanded us to baptize (Matt. 3:13-17; 28:16-20). Likewise, the early church baptized new converts (Acts 2:38-41; 8:36).
- We affirm that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Thus, baptism is neither a requirement nor necessary for salvation, but this in no way diminishes the delight and duty of baptism for the believer in the Christian life.

3. Baptism symbolizes our death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

- Baptism is an outward (visible) expression of an inward (invisible) work of God. It illustrates a number of significant realities of the believer:
 - Christ's death and resurrection and the believer's union in Him (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12)
 - The believer's new life in Christ (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:27)
 - The Holy Spirit's regenerative work of the cleansing and forgiving sin (Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5)
- We practice water baptism by immersion as a because the Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse," immersion seems to best fit and explain the context of Jesus' and other baptisms in the Bible, and the representation of union with Christ's death and resurrection is better expressed (though not exclusively) through immersion (Matt. 4:13-17; Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 6:3-4).
- We reject the baptismal regeneration, or the teaching that baptism is the means by which God saves. Rather, it serves as a symbol and reminder of what God alone has done in your life.

WHO DO WE BAPTIZE?

KCC Pastors will only baptize those who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and desire to follow in obedience to His command to be baptized (Acts 2:37-38). Since a profession of faith is a prerequisite for baptism, KCC Pastors will not baptize infants. Furthermore, we encourage young children who want to be baptized to wait in order to better develop their understanding of baptism and commitment to the Christian life. However, the KCC Pastors are willing to work together with parents of children who want to be baptized to ensure that the child understands what it is to believe and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior and what baptism represents in the life of a believer.

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

Those who desire to be baptized will be asked to:

1. **Meet with a KCC Elder to talk about baptism and schedule a baptism day.**
2. **Write and be prepared to give a short testimony before the congregation on baptism day.**

Preparing Your Testimony

Telling your story of coming to Christ and why you are being baptized is a valued part of baptism. There is no pressure to impress, be someone you're not, or fear saying the wrong thing. People simply want to hear how God has worked and is working in your life. Testimonies are an opportunity to glorify God, declare the gospel to those present who are not followers of Christ, and encourage other believers.

Write out your conversion story in one page or less at least one week prior to your baptism and get it to Pastor Sam (sam.andres@kingscrossdefiance.com). The follow questions are simply to help you tell the story of what brought you to Christ and the waters of baptism.

Before You Trusted Christ

- What was a deep inner need in your life before you came to faith in Jesus Christ?
- What are some ways in which you tried to fill that need that proved unsatisfactory?
- Be honest about being a sinner without going on in great detail about your former sinful lifestyle.

How You Came to Trust Christ

- Describe the circumstances that made you consider Christian faith or a deeper commitment to Christ. What events or specific people did God use to help you understand the gospel?
- What new understanding of God did you come to that brought you to trust Jesus or a desire to be baptized? Tell us what brought you to be baptized today.
- Make the gospel clear and compelling. Explain your understanding of sin and forgiveness and new life through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now that You Trust Christ

- Describe the new life you have in Christ.
- How has Jesus started to transform you?
- What are you learning about God and the gospel?

3. **Be baptized at a KCC Sunday morning Worship Gathering.**

- Arrive at 10am for the pre-service meeting to run through the baptism process.
- Wear appropriate clothing for getting wet (i.e. dark shirt). We have white baptismal robes for you to change into.
- Be ready to give your testimony before the congregation.
- After you get into the water, you will be asked and answer aloud these questions:
 1. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
 2. Do you believe that you have forgiveness of all your sins through faith in Christ?
 3. Do you commit yourself to a life of loving obedience under the Lordship of Jesus?
 4. Will you seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ?
- Cross your arms (plug your nose if you want). The baptizer will tip you backward into the water.
- After a prayer of thanksgiving, there will be a time of greeting from the congregation.