

Preparing for Baptism

BAPTISM EXPLANATION FROM THE KCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe baptism symbolizes our death to sin and resurrection to a new life and is a response to the command of Christ.¹ Baptism in water is the delightful duty of all believers upon their profession of faith.² Although we recognize other modes, we encourage baptism by immersion, in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit, in order to publically display our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior in a solemn and beautiful symbol.³

¹Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:11-12; ²Acts 2:38-42, 8:36-38, 16:32-33;

³Matthew 3:13-17; 28:18-20

BAPTISM IS GOING PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH

1. Baptism symbolizes death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

- Baptism is an outward (visible) expression of an inward (invisible) work of God.
- Baptism is a sign of going from spiritual death to spiritual life. Romans 6:1-4
- Baptism symbolizes being spiritually united with Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:6-15
- Baptism symbolizes identifying with Christ and his church, not the world. Acts 2:40-41
- Baptism symbolizes your sins have been washed away. Titus 3:5; Acts 22:16

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

- Jesus himself was baptized and commanded us to baptize. Matthew 3:13-17; 28:16-20
- We are following the early church's example. Acts 2:38-41; 8:36

3. Baptism does not impart salvation, but it does strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ.

- The experience of being immersed under the water and brought out of the water doesn't mysteriously save us. Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), and it is not something we earn or do. But as a tangible experience, it helps us feel and experience the salvation we've received as a gift of God's grace through faith in the gospel. Baptism is a richly symbolic action that stirs our imaginations to perceive the work of God and the reality of the gospel more clearly.

4. Baptism testifies to everyone present that God is alive and working in our midst.

- When people are baptized at KCC they share their story of coming to know Jesus and why they are being baptized. There is no pressure to impress or be someone you're not. Don't fear saying the wrong thing. People simply want to hear how God has worked and is working in your life so we can join you in rejoicing. Testimonies are an opportunity to glorify Jesus, declare the gospel to skeptics, share how Jesus has become personal to you, and encourage other believers. See the next page about how to prepare for sharing your testimony.

DO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

Connect with a KCC pastor personally, or through a Sunday Connect Card, or at

<https://kingscrossdefiance.com/contact-kcc/>.

PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

Using another sheet of paper, answer these questions as an aide in writing out your story of coming to know Jesus Christ. Write out your conversion story in one page or less and get it to Pastor Sam (sam.andres@kingscrossdefiance.com) at least one week prior to your baptism.

The Apostle Paul's conversion story is a helpful guide in preparing your testimony. Acts 26:12-29

Before you came to know Jesus Christ...

- What was a deep inner need or area of rebellion against God before you came to faith in Jesus Christ?
- What are some ways in which you tried to fill that need that proved unsatisfactory?

How you came to know Jesus Christ and put your trust in Him...

- Describe the circumstances that made you consider Christian faith or a deeper commitment to Christ. What events or people did God use to help you understand who Jesus is and the truth of the gospel?
- What new understanding of God did you come to that brought you to faith in Jesus, or a desire to be baptized?
- Explain your understanding of sin and forgiveness through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now that you've come to know Jesus...

- How has Jesus started to change you? How have you seen Him meet the deep inner needs of your heart? What has it looked like for you to repent of sin and turn to Christ?

BAPTISM SUNDAY

- Wear clothing that will be appropriate for getting immersed in water (ie: dark shirts). You will have the opportunity to wear a white baptism robe if you like.
- Each baptism candidate will share their testimony before the church. You can either be interviewed by a pastor, read your testimony before the congregation, or if you're mortified by both those options a pastor can tell your story.
- Prior to being baptized you will be asked five questions to make a public profession of your faith. See the following page.
- Get in the baptismal tub. You will be immersed back into the water by a member of KCC of your own choosing. They will dunk you and bring you back up to much joy and celebration. We will pray for you.
- After all baptisms, the church will come to greet you, then you can get changed.



PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

Prior to your baptism, you will be asked these questions. Give careful consideration to whether you can affirm these questions prior to your baptism. If you cannot answer them with a sincere affirmation from the heart, talk to a pastor about it before you are baptized. If you don't remember all the exact answers on the spot, you can simply respond in the affirmative (for example: "Yes, I do.")

1. Q: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, and the Holy Spirit? (based on the Apostles' Creed)
Answer: Yes! I believe in God, the Father, Son, and Spirit!

2. Q: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of evil that rebel against God, and all sinful desires that draw you away from the love of God?
Answer: Yes! I renounce them!

3. Q: Do you place your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and Him alone?
Answer: Yes! I trust Jesus as my Lord and Savior!

4. Q: Do you believe that you have forgiveness of all your sins and acceptance as God's child through faith in Jesus Christ?
Answer: Yes! I believe I am forgiven and accepted by God!

5. Q: Do you commit yourself to a life of loving obedience under the Lordship of Jesus, in fellowship with His church?
Answer: Yes! Jesus is my Lord!