

A BAPTISMAL DECLARATION

for a Follower of Jesus

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ 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. Romans 6:3-4 (ESV)

I, _____, born _____, have requested water baptism as a testimony of my having acknowledged my need of a Savior, confessed my sins, repented of my rebellion against God's rule, and determined to follow Jesus in all of life.

I believe that Jesus actually and literally took my sins upon His own body on the cross; that they are forgiven and God remembers them no more; and that there is henceforth no basis upon which Satan can condemn me (II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24, Psalm 103:12, Romans 8:1-2).

I am now a born again (John 3:3-8) follower of Jesus, living in the Kingdom of God in accordance with a new nature and giving myself as a bondsman to His purposes in my life as a member of the Body of Christ, His Matthew 16:18 Church.

I believe that God's supernatural works of power are to accompany the witness of His sanctified Church, thus in addition to this baptism of repentance I also receive Jesus' baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire to empower me for holy living and fruitful service (Matthew 4:23, Mark 16:15-18, Hebrews 2:4, Acts 1:8, 2:38, 2:43, 4:29-30, 6:8, 15:12).

I declare that, even knowing that it will separate me from many whose approval I have valued, I will with God's help and that of my brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ:

- 1) take up my cross daily and die to selfish, earthly desires (Luke 9:23-26);
- 2) actively pursue righteousness and give myself to the transformation that makes me increasingly like Jesus (II Corinthians 3:18, Romans 12:1-2, Colossians. 2:6-7, I Timothy 6:11-12);
- 3) knowing that I can serve only one master, set the eye of my heart on the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:19-24 and 6:33, Colossians 3:1-3, I John 2:15-17);
- 4) relinquish control over all that I have or will ever have, including earthly treasure and even family if required, in order to follow Him (Luke 14:33, Matthew 10:34-37);
- 5) accept the fact that suffering is normal for true Jesus followers and that following Jesus will likely lead to rejection and persecution by some, and could even lead to my imprisonment or physical death (Matthew 24:9, Luke 21:12, John 15:20, II Timothy 3:12, James 1:2-4);
- 6) love my enemies and do good to those who persecute me (Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-28);

- 7) forgive those who do evil against me, whether willfully or unintentionally (Matthew 6:14-15, Mark 11:25, Romans 12:17-21, I Peter 3:8-9);
- 8) function as an active part of the Matthew 16:18 Church, the Body of Christ, the Family of God, gathering with others (in formal and/or informal settings) and giving and receiving encouragement and admonition as appropriate to the setting. (Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:24-25, Colossians 3:16, Galatians 6:1-2)
- 9) invite the I Corinthians 12 supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow through me for His intended purpose, in harmony with others of the Body of Christ;
- 10) consciously, and as a way of life, choose the narrow path that leads to the narrow gate that opens into the Abundant Life of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 7:13-14):
- 11) do my part to be at peace with all men (Romans 12:18, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 3:11);
- 12) have a humble and submissive spirit toward others in the Body of Christ, including peers and those in leadership (Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 2:3-4, I Peter 5:5, Hebrews 13:17)
- 13) live a life of generosity toward others in every way, as Jesus so generously gave Himself for me;
- 14) accept the mandate of the Matthew 28:18-20 Great Commission and dedicate myself to its fulfillment through my life, knowing that Jesus has sent me as the Father sent Him (John 17:18), which is for the purpose of making the Gospel known to the ends of the earth through every resource He entrusts to me.
- 15) For a husband: I will love my wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, serving her and our family in the spirit of Christ. (Ephesians 5:25-29)
- 16) For a wife: I will be subject to my husband as to the Lord, and will welcome his place as the spiritual head in our home (Ephesians 5:22-24)

I boldly declare myself a follower of Jesus and humbly take my place in the Body of Christ, the Matthew 16:18 Church that He is building in preparation for His soon return:

Signature

Date

Witnesses: