

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is the act of a **BELIEVING** Christian who wants to publicly confess their personal commitment to Jesus Christ. It is the symbolic **WASHING AWAY** of one's old, sinful past and the **RISING** again to **LIFE**, God's way. The act of baptism can be defined as an outward expression of an inward decision.

What does baptism mean?

Baptism illustrates Jesus' **BURIAL** and **RESURRECTION**.

"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead." Colossians 2:12

Baptism illustrates **NEW LIFE** as a Christian.

*"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a **NEW LIFE**." Romans 6:4*

Baptism doesn't make you a Christian - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

Why do we get baptized?

To follow the example set by **CHRIST** & because Christ **COMMANDED** it.

"One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized..." Luke 3:21

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

When is a good time to get baptized?

As soon as you **BELIEVE!** **THERE IS NO REASON TO DELAY!** As soon as you have decided to trust Christ with your life, you can and should be baptized. If you're waiting until you're perfect, you'll never be ready.

"Those who believe ... were baptized ... that day!" Acts 8:35-38

How do we baptize?

We baptize by immersion, which means to be placed completely under water. We baptize by immersion for two reasons. Jesus was baptized that way. *"As Jesus was coming up out of the water..." Mark 1:10*

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

"He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39

What if I was baptized as a baby?

That is a great question. Since baptism is meant for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, we would encourage you to be baptized as a follower of Jesus. However, please discuss this with your parents first. You will want to present it in a way that is honoring and loving toward your parents, but also honoring of Jesus' command for believers to be baptized.

I want to get baptized?

If you have any questions about our next baptism, please call Youth Pastor David Taylor Jr. 520-490-6678. Or you can talk with an adult leader during our next group meetings.



What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Christians understand WHY God created us

God LOVES us and wants us to ENJOY a personal relationship with him. **"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ . . . because of His love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us His children - this was God's pleasure and purpose."**
Ephesians 1:4-5

Christians want to experience REAL LIFE

When we KNOW and LOVE God, and LIVE according to God's purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives. The World offers empty promises, but in Jesus, we can have real life: **"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."** John 10:10

Christians admit their imperfections

We know we're not perfect. We don't do what's right, all of the time. We hurt other people, tell lies, gossip, steal, get jealous, etc. Even if each person created their own standard for "perfect," they would fall short. The Bible calls our imperfection sin, and we fall short of God's standard. **"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** Romans 3:23

Christians know that a relationship with God requires perfection

God is perfect and we are imperfect. The only way for us to enjoy a relationship is for us to be perfect ourselves - but nobody is perfect! **"So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden."** Genesis 3:23

Christians believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead

HOWEVER, God came to earth as Jesus to lead a perfect life and to PAY the price for OUR imperfection! Why did God do this? Why did God send His son to die in our place? Because He loves us so much He did EVERYTHING to restore the relationship with imperfect people. Jesus freely offers this gift through faith in him. **"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** Romans 5:8

"Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Christians live their new in Christ to the fullest

After you have accepted Jesus' free gift of salvation, setting him apart as Lord and Savior of your life, it's now time to celebrate your new life in Christ.

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

A Sample Prayer of Faith in Jesus:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me & loving me, even when I've ignored you & gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life & I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life & make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

Have you said all of these things to God?

A Christian is more than a church-goer or someone who is born into a Christian family. A Christian is one who admits his/her sins, asks God for forgiveness, and invites God to take control of his/her life. If you do decide to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life, we urge you to tell somebody who is a believer! Give us a call. We would love to answer any questions, offer encouragement, and share in the excitement of your new life!

IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU BELONG!