



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

Through baptism, we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:3-11) Our baptism is a public testimony of our belief that we have died with Christ – that our old self (sin nature) was crucified with Him. And, therefore, since all of our sins were washed away, we get to live in freedom with Him.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

All those who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ as their Savior, by trusting in Him, should be baptized. For this reason, we do not baptize babies or children who are too young to make a conscientious decision to follow Christ. While babies may be dedicated to the Lord from birth (1 Samuel 1:21-24), baptism is reserved for believers. Once you have committed yourself to following Jesus Christ, you are ready for baptism.

HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

The Greek word "baptize" literally means to immerse or dunk. So, since Jesus was immersed (Matthew 3:13-17), the early church immersed (Acts 2:41), and the New Testament teaches nothing by immersion, we believe that baptism, if at all possible, ought to be done by full immersion in water.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Based on the pattern we see established in the early Church (Acts 8:35-39; 16:30-34; 18:8), we encourage believers to get baptized at their first opportunity after trusting Christ as Lord and Savior. We require a personal meeting with one of our pastors or elders prior to the baptism.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM?

Baptism is a symbol of a covenant and commitment, much like a wedding ring. A wedding ring does not make a couple married; the covenant that make together does that. Yet the ring serves as a symbol to others of that promise and covenant. Like the wedding ring, baptism is a symbol which testifies before God and man of the promise and covenant a person has made in his or her heart with Jesus. And, it is a picture of how God has washed away our old sin-loving nature from our hearts.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Jesus, the Creator of the universe, was baptized (Mark 1:9-11), and He commands all believers to follow His example (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 2:21). Baptism is an act of confession and identification with Christ. It is a public demonstration of your covenant with God and your personal commitment to Christ.