

CrossView Church - What We Believe About Baptism

Water Baptism

According to the New Testament

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

- ◇ Because you want to follow Christ's example.
At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. Mark 1:9
- ◇ Because Christ commanded it.
Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20
- ◇ Because it shows you are a believer.
...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8
- ◇ Because obeying Christ's command shows you know Him.
We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands. 1 John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- ◇ It is the symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection.
Christ died for our sins...he was buried...and he rose again. 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4
- ◇ It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian.
When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! 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 made in your heart.

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

- ◇ Like Jesus was baptized - by being immersed in water.
As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. Matthew 3:16
- ◇ Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water.
(Example)...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... Acts 8:38-39
- ◇ The word "baptize" literally means "to dip under water".
The Greek word "baptize" means to immerse or dip under water.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized. Acts 2:41

But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12

Simon himself believed and was baptized... Acts 8:13

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ! We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

WHEN ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

When you have believed and you have a clear understanding of the biblical instructions found in this brochure, you should publicly declare your belief through baptism. The baptisms described in the following occurred very soon after those involved became believers.

Those who believed...were baptized...that day! Acts 2:41

Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now? Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. The official answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:36-39 (paraphrase)

WHAT ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED TWICE?

We recommend that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized.

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized on the same day. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

There is not a biblical requirement to say anything. You are "showing" your faith by being baptized. However, since baptism does not save you, we want those who observe to hear about your personal trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ. So we ask you to write your faith story. We prefer that you read it yourself, however, a Pastor or another person can read it on your behalf. (Faith Story brochures are available at church).

Assisting People in Wholeness & Holiness in a Relationship with Jesus Christ & Other Christians

Instructions for your Baptism

- ◇ We are so happy that you desire to follow the Lord's example in baptism. There will probably be others baptized with you.
- ◇ Baptismal services are scheduled at a variety of times during the year. Call the church office to indicate your interest.
- ◇ Baptisms are held in the CVC sanctuary during both morning worship services, allowing your friends, relatives, and the entire CVC church family to celebrate with you.
- ◇ A Pastor or Elder will connect with you before the baptismal service. This will prepare you to consider sharing your personal faith story at the time of your baptism, and answer any questions.
- ◇ Bring a towel and a hair dryer (if desired). We encourage you to wear a swim suit or shorts and a top. You will be given a gown that fits over your clothes for the baptism. You will be able to change clothes afterwards.
- ◇ If you would like someone special to perform the baptism, or stand near you for it, talk to the CVC Pastor or Elder about your desire.
- ◇ Don't be surprised when people clap at your baptism. It is a happy experience for every Christian when someone publicly identifies himself as a believer by being baptized.
- ◇ Bring a camera if you'd like!

CrossView Church

Our Mission

To assist people in finding wholeness and holiness in a right relationship with Jesus Christ and other Christians.

Our Vision

Expecting life change by purposefully building Christ-centered lives together.

Our Means

Healthy lives require balanced activity in all five arenas, energized by PRAYER.



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What We Believe about Baptism



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9