

# Baptism

## Questions and Answers About Baptism

### What is Baptism?

Baptism, in the New Testament, means to immerse. The meaning of the Greek term “baptizo” is immerse. Baptism in the New Testament pattern follows the example of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11). It is an act that follows repentance and believing thus it is called ‘*believer’s baptism*’ (Mark 16: 16 / Acts 2:38 / Romans 6:1-14). We are baptized in and of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

### What is the purpose of baptism?

Baptism is an outward act of an inward change, a symbolic action of a decision of the will.

- Baptism symbolizes
- (1) inward or spiritual and moral cleansing;
  - (2) a quitting of or deadness to sin (Romans 6:3)
  - (3) new life in Christ (Romans 6:4)

Baptism is a witness to the believer, that you are serious about your acceptance of Christ. It is a witness to the members of the congregation that he or she is one of them in faith. It is a witness to the community when family, friends, and associates ask for an explanation of the baptism.

### What about baptism of babies?

Infant baptism was introduced in the first century for these reasons:

- (1) in keeping with a theological view that infants have original sin and baptism would be their salvation;
- (2) in keeping with the sacramental view that the act of baptism itself saves the infant.

Many Christian groups, including the Church of God, believe that children are innocent and, in the event of death, would be received by God into His heaven. Jesus himself called children to come near to Him and declared, “The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). There is no record in the New Testament of infant baptism.

### Why do some churches sprinkle or pour instead of immersion (dipping a person under the water)?

The term used in the New Testaments is “Baptizo”, which means to immerse. Some church groups do sprinkle or pour water on heads as a means of baptism. Our church sees the Bible as speaking of a immersion of the body and so we follow what the Bible teaches.

## **If I get baptized, will I be saved?**

Baptism of and by itself does not “save a person”. It is an action a person takes after they have acknowledged they are a sinner, that Jesus Christ died for them and that they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you are baptized without having accepted Christ as your Lord, all you get is wet!

## **If I never am baptized, will God reject me?**

God loves all of us, no matter what we do! But if we love God, we should be baptized. Why?

- (1) if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you should be baptized soon afterwards (Acts 2:38).
- (2) Jesus is our model of faith and life, and He was baptized as an example for us to follow (Matthew 3:13-17).
- (3) Baptism is a great experience for many people, don't pass up a wonderful opportunity to express your faith in Christ.

If you are ill or physically unable, God understands. But new believers are encouraged to be baptized soon after accepting Christ as Savior (Acts 8:12; 36-38).

## **What do I do if I am ready to be baptized?**

We will be having a baptismal service on Easter Sunday. Contact Pastor Dave or Pastor Kevin, so any other questions can be answered. Let your family and friends know so they can share this special time with you.

### **What do you bring the day you are baptized?**

- (1) Wear loose comfortable casual clothes for being baptized in.
- (2) Bring 1 or 2 towels, a plastic bag to carry wet clothes in.
- (3) Bring a change of clothes for afterwards.