

# Take the God Plunge

We recognize that there is a great deal of diversity in the spiritual backgrounds of those who attend Eagle Pointe. Here at Eagle Pointe, we follow the tradition of the New Testament Church who baptized new believers as a symbol of their faith in and commitment to Christ as their leader and forgiver. This was a public statement of the private commitment they had already made and identified that a person had become a follower of Christ (see Acts 2:38-41; 8:10-38; 16:1-33; 18:1-8).

## Baptism is . . .

Baptism is also a *testimony*. It illustrates my new life as a Christian and identifies me with every other Christian. As Paul states in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun.*" It's like putting on the team uniform.

Baptism is a *symbol* of our commitment to Christ. It graphically represents the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and our desire to put to death our sinful way of living in order to follow Christ in a new way of life. It symbolizes the washing away of our sins through the forgiveness we have in Christ. That's why at Eagle Pointe we baptize by immersion because we believe it best symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Further, immersion was the way Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River and was the practice of the New Testament Church.

## What Baptism Doesn't Do...

*Baptism doesn't save you.* Salvation is the result of God's gracious love for us and our decision to trust in his Son Jesus to take away our sins. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us, "*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is a gift - not by works, so that no one can boast.*" There is clearly nothing we can do - no good deed, no moral accomplishment, no religious thing - to earn salvation.

*Baptism doesn't make you holy.* Many new Christians believe they will enter a new level of spiritual experience and holiness by being baptized.

But, spiritual growth and holiness is not an event. It is a lifelong process which is done in cooperation with the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

If baptism is just a symbol, why is it important for me to be baptized? There are several reasons that every Christian should be baptized: First, to follow the example set by Christ himself when he was baptized by John in the Jordan river (see Mark 1). Another reason is to obey the command of Christ. In what is called *The Great Commission*, Jesus told us, "*Go then to all people everywhere and make them my followers. 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). As believers, our goal is to obey Christ. And as a final reason, we should be baptized as a public statement of our faith in Christ. Baptism is the individual believer's way of saying, "*I am a Christian.*"

## Who Me?

If you have recently made a decision to follow Christ or if you made that commitment some time ago but have never followed through by being baptized, I encourage you to take the next step in your walk of faith by participating in our next celebration of baptism.

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e-mail: [office@eaglepointe.org](mailto:office@eaglepointe.org)**

