

BAPTISM

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WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT At JourneyChurch?

What is Baptism?

The word baptism comes from the Greek word "Baptizo" which means to dip, put under, or immerse.

Why is Baptism Important?

❖ **Because of the Example of Jesus Christ**

Even though He was sinless, Jesus Christ was baptized by John. (Matt. 3:13-17)

❖ **Because of the Command of Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ makes it clear that baptism is an identifying mark of those who are His.

Matthew 28:19

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

The believer's baptism identifies him/her publicly as Christ's. It is a statement to the world that our allegiance is to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus commanded that those who are His followers are to identify themselves as believers by public baptism. In following Christ as His disciples, this is one of the first acts of obedience we are to take.

❖ **Because of the Example of the Early Church**

Baptism was a prominent act in the early church. (Acts 2:38,41, 8:12,36-38, 9:18, 10:47-48, 16:15,33 18:8, 19:5) Belief always preceded baptism. Baptism was a symbol; belief in Christ was the reality.



What Does Baptism Mean?

❖ **Baptism is a Declaration**

It is a public act declaring that you are a follower of Christ. It means you are totally and irrevocably Jesus Christ's and you want the world to know it.

Matthew 10:32

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven."

❖ **Baptism is Separation**

Baptism means you want to be obedient to Jesus Christ. It indicates that you want to be done with your past sinful life style, and live a new life of righteousness.

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

❖ **Baptism is an Initiation**

Baptism is the public sign that you are affiliating yourself with Christ's visible church on this earth.

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ..."

Questions About Baptism

❖ **Do I have to be Baptized in order to be saved?**

No, the Bible clearly teaches that we are saved by faith in Christ alone and because of God's grace given to us. Baptism is an act of obedience, not an act of salvation.

Romans 10:13 (NIV) "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

❖ ***Why don't we Baptize babies at JourneyChurch?***

Some teach that baptizing an infant cleanses the baby from original sin and promotes regeneration. The consistent testimony of the Bible is that only those old enough to understand the plan of salvation and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior were baptized. Since babies cannot understand the content of this message and place their faith in Christ, we do not baptize babies at JourneyChurch.

We do, however, encourage parents to dedicate their children to the Lord. This is a time when the parents of the child publicly declare their intention to raise their child in the teaching of the Bible and to tell their child about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

❖ ***I was baptized when I was a baby. Should I be baptized again, or was that enough?***

The Bible clearly teaches that baptism follows salvation in Christ. You may want to consider being re-baptized. There is a Scriptural precedent for this in Acts 19:5. The Bible tells of John the Baptist's disciples being re-baptized.

❖ ***Can I serve God or be a member at JourneyChurch without being Baptized?***

Yes. We encourage you to follow our Lord's teaching in this matter, but this will not keep you from being a part of JourneyChurch and its ministries. Those in Leadership or Teaching ministries must be baptized.

❖ ***How does a person get Baptized?***

Let your desire be known through our "Communication Card" or with our Pastor directly. A Pastor or

Leadership Team member will meet with you personally to confirm that you understand Biblical baptism. You will be asked to share how and when you asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior and Lord. Upon your testimony a time will be set for your Baptism.

❖ ***How old should a person be when Baptized?***

When parents believe that their child understands the Gospel of Jesus Christ and has received Him as their Savior and Lord, and that the child understands the meaning of baptism; then they are old enough to be baptized.

❖ ***Does the Bible teach that only Pastors can baptize others?***

Nowhere does the Bible say who can baptize others. Talk with our pastor if you desire a "special person" who is a believer in Jesus Christ to baptize you or a loved one.

❖ ***Can I invite others to my Baptism?***

Absolutely! Baptisms have always been meant for public display of your allegiance to and love for Christ.

If you have not yet been baptized, why should you?

Christ commands it. It is a visible testimony to others of your faith in Jesus Christ. It is also a visual aid to help you understand Spirit Baptism. It marks your decision to obey Christ wholeheartedly. It helps you verbalize and solidify your faith.

It is our hope that you will make the decision today to be baptized at our next baptismal service.