BAPTISM

1. Why should I be baptized?
   • To follow the example set by Jesus Christ.
     “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.”
     Mark 1:9
   • Because Christ commands 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 Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey
     everything I have commanded you.’”
     Matthew 28:19-20
   • It demonstrates that I really am a believer
     “…many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

     “We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.”
     I John 2:3

2. What is the meaning of baptism?
   • It illustrates Christ’s burial and resurrection.
     “Christ died for our sins…He was buried…and He rose again.” I Corinthians 15:3-4

     “For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also
     raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12
   • It illustrates my new life as a Christian
     The baptismal water symbolizes both a tomb and a womb. It is the tomb where we
     symbolize the burial of our old selves. It is a type of womb in which our new life in Christ
     is pictured as being born.

     “When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life
     has passed away and a new life has begun!” II Corinthians 5:17

     “By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just
     as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6:4

     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 make in your heart.
     Baptism doesn’t make you a believer – it shows that you already believe.

     “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
3. I was sprinkled as a child, why should I be baptized by immersion?

- Because Jesus was baptized that way.
  “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16
- Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.
  (Example) “…Then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water…” Acts 8:38-39
- It’s in the word “baptize.”
  The Greek word *baptize* means “to immerse or dip under water.”
- It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther (Lutherans) – “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin – “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley (Methodists) – “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

4. Who should be baptized?

- Every person who has believed in Christ.
  “Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized…” Acts 2:41

  “Simon himself believed and was baptized…” Acts 8:13

  “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 8:2

- What about infants and children?
  At Mount Carmel, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. (If you have a child ready for baptism we suggest you call our children’s ministry for more information).

  Some churches do practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

  This is different, however, from the baptism in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

  At Mount Carmel, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.
5. **When should I be baptized?** The answer to that is simply **as soon as you have believed!**

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

“There is really no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. In the New Testament those who personally accepted Christ were baptized immediately to publicly confess Him.

6. **What if I have been baptized in another church? Do I need to be baptized again?**

No. Some people, however, who becomes a member choose to be baptized again if they feel their first baptism was for the wrong reason or if their baptism preceded their conversion to Christ. As with anything we cover in this material should you have further questions please do not hesitate to make an appointment with a minister who may help you more clearly understand baptism.