



## BAPTISM

*...and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith... Colossians 2:12*

One of the ways that Jesus asks his followers to participate in remembering His death and resurrection is through baptism.

- Baptism symbolizes and demonstrates your foundation of faith.
- Baptism does not make you a believer - it shows that you already believe.
- Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ can give you salvation.
- Baptism is like a wedding ring - it is the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

### WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by Christ  
*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." Mark 1:9*
2. Jesus told us to be baptized  
*"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..." Matthew 29:19-20*  
*"Peter replied, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day," Acts 2:38-41*
3. It is an outward sign, before mankind, of an inward change  
*"...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of god, who raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2:12*

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It is an identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ  
*"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." Romans 6:4*
2. It is a visual picture of my new life as a Christian  
*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### WHERE CAN I FIND SCRIPTURE ON BAPTISM OR EXAMPLES IN SCRIPTURES OF BAPTISMS?

- The baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13; Luke 3:21; John 1:21
- Jesus commands us to be baptized - Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16
- The Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:38, 41
- Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:38
- In Samaria - Acts 8:12
- Paul (Saul), gets baptized - Acts 9:18
- Lydia - Acts 16:15
- Phillipian Jailer and Family - Acts 16:33
- Corinthians get baptized - Acts 18:8
- Ephesians get baptized - Acts 19:5

### WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed! *Those who accepted his message were "baptized ...that day." Acts 2:41*

### HOW WILL I BE BAPTIZED?

"Baptize" comes from the Greek word "Baptidzo." This Greek word means to dip, to sink, to plunge, immerse, submerge, or to cover wholly, therefore we baptize by total submersion. Baptism is symbolically compared to the burial of Christ, so when you are baptized your whole body is placed under the water just as your whole body would go under the earth when you are buried, but then, just as Christ rose up from the grave, you are raised up out of the water. This is symbolic of your new life. You will be baptized according to Matthew 28:19, in the "Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

### I WANT TO BE BAPTIZED, NOW WHAT?

1. Notify the church either: a) Sign up on a Connect Card at church; or b) Sign up online – click on Baptism under the Upcoming events section of the Home Page. Then simply follow the instruction to Register For Event.

- a. Once your request to be baptized has been received, whether you are an adult, youth or child, you will be contacted to attend a 1 hour class on baptism.
- b. After successfully completing the Baptism Class, your baptism will be arranged for the next 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.
- c. Baptisms are normally held immediately after worship service (toward the beginning of service).
- d. After being baptized, you will receive a Certificate of Baptism.

This is one of the most momentous occasions in the life of a believer. We encourage you to invite family, and friends to witness and share this moment with you.

#### **WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?**

Both men and women should wear shorts and a dark colored tee shirt (light colored shirts can become immodest when wet). Swimsuits are not suggested. Everyone should be sure to wear undergarments. Make sure to bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

#### **SHOULD CHILDREN OR SMALL INFANTS BE BAPTIZED?**

We believe that salvation is a personal experience and children should be old enough to understand what it means and accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior before they are baptized.

#### **WHAT IS THE BABY/CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE?**

Children are a gift from God. *Psalms 127:3 proclaims that "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children are a reward from Him."* Grace as gifts to parents, it is only proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God. For our younger children and infants, we offer a Baby Dedication Service. During this ceremony, parents agree to partner with God and promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his or her own personal acceptance and confession of Christ. Child Dedication Services are held quarterly at the Austin Vineyard. For the next Child Dedication service, please contact our Children's Director, Patti Wright at 331-5200 ext 16.