

Baptism at New Life Community Church

What is Baptism?

The Greek word for Baptism means immersion.

What is the function of Baptism?

The way I outwardly respond to God's offer of eternal life.

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

1 Peter 3: 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What is baptism symbolic of?

Putting to death my old way of life, and starting a new life with Christ.

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.

Acts 22: 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

In baptism, I'm symbolically included in Christ.

Colossians 2:11 In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 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.

Reasons to be Baptized

Christ commands it.

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,

I'll be following Christ's example.

Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

I'll be making a public statement about my faith.

Matthew 10:32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Common Questions

When am I ready to get baptized?

When I understand that...

- Apart from Christ I am lost and without hope.
- Salvation is a free-gift from God – That nothing I can do will give me eternal life.
- That Christ's death on my behalf pays the price for eternal life.

When I'm ready to....

- Turn away from my life of sin and ask Christ to forgive me.
- Surrender control of my life to Jesus Christ
- Start living for Christ

Q – Are you ready to be baptized?

Common Questions About Baptism

I was baptized as a child, should I be re-baptized?

What about if I've already been baptized but didn't really know what I was doing, should I be re-baptized?

I was baptized as a teenager, but didn't start living for Christ until I was 21, should I be baptized again?

I was baptized, but then fell away as a Christian, now if that I'm back at church, should I be baptized again?

I would like to have my child baptized, do you do that?

Principles to think through....

Baptism should be a personal decision, not a parental decision.

Baptism should be subsequent to personally believing in Jesus Christ.

As a Christian you will always be learning more about Christ, so more information alone is not a reason for being re-baptized.

We're not required to be re-baptized each time we sin.

Ultimately, being re-baptized is a personal issue – You have to determine whether or not it happened subsequent to you accepting God's free gift of eternal life and being born again

Young Children and Baptism

For very young children our church practices child dedication, not baptism.

We do this to more closely follow a Biblical model. Jesus was dedicated as a child, and baptized as an adult.

Luke 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. 22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Luke 3:21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened. 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." 23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli,

We ask that parents determine whether or not their child is old enough to be baptized.

How to take the next step

Fill out a baptism questionnaire and turn it in – this questionnaire helps explore your readiness to be baptized.

Get with a leader – After receiving your application one of our baptism team leaders will contact you to follow up.

If everyone agrees you're ready to be baptized – Prepare for the next baptism!

What happens at a baptism?

What to bring

- A bathing suit, with a t-shirt
- A change of clothes
- A towel

Other Things to Know

- This is a time of celebration, so invite family and friends
- You're more than welcome to video tape or take pictures
- We serve drinks and dessert (you should eat lunch before coming)
- Baptisms usually happen at 1:30pm on Sunday afternoon after church

- Our baptisms are held at pools in people's homes
- We have each person give a video testimony afterwards

Baptism Certificate

We give certificates of Baptism to each person being baptized

Our Next Baptism Date is_____