

WATER BAPTISM

What is water baptism?

#1—Water baptism is a wonderful opportunity for those who have crossed the line into a relationship with Jesus, to make a public declaration of their faith and devotion to Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9 says, “...if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Water baptism presents people with an opportunity to publicly confess that Jesus Christ is their personal Lord and Savior. Public confession greatly helps to solidify any decision or commitment that we make in our lives. Baptism allows us to show that we are not ashamed of our decision to repent of our sins and become a follower of Christ. Matthew 10:32-33 “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in Heaven.”

Just before you are baptized, you will have an opportunity to verbally share your personal conversion experience and your commitment to Christ.

#2—Water baptism is also being obedient to the commands of God. We are commanded to be baptized in the Bible:

- Acts 2:38 “...Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”
- Matthew 28:19-20 “...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Symbolism

The act of baptism contains very powerful symbolism. Baptism symbolizes our death, burial and resurrection. As an individual is lowered into the water, that is symbolic of their old way of life being put to death and buried. When that person comes back up out of the water, that is symbolic of them living a **brand new** life in Christ.

Water baptism shows that the new Christian has been crucified with Christ:

Romans 6:3 & 6 “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?...For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

Water baptism shows that the new Christian has been resurrected 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.”

Before Baptism

Repentance and belief in Jesus Christ as God’s son is required prior to baptism (Acts 2:38). In order for baptism to be meaningful in our lives our repentance and faith in Christ must be real and sincere. Acts 8:37 “Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may (be baptized).’”

The Way We Baptize

The word “Baptism” comes from the Greek word “Baptiso”, which means to immerse, plunge or drench. No where in the scripture does the Bible tell us that a person was sprinkled with water in order to be baptized. Every Biblical reference to baptism involved an individual being totally immersed under water.

- Mark 1:9-10 “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”

We baptize believers by immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, according to the instructions of Christ (Matthew 28:18-19).

Can children be baptized?

We do allow children to be baptized with parental consent. Before a parent gives permission for their child to be baptized, they should be confident of their child's commitment to Christ and that the child has an understanding of the meaning and purpose for water baptism. If a parent is unsure about these issues, we encourage parents to wait to have their children baptized until they are able to understand.

Examples

Here some examples of baptisms recorded in the New Testament:

- 3000 people baptized on the Day of Pentecost - *Acts 2:41*
- Samaritan believers were baptized - *Acts 8:5, 12 & 13*
- Ethiopian eunuch was baptized - *Acts 8:38*
- Cornelius was baptized - *Acts 10:48*
- Lydia and her household were baptized - *Acts 16:15*
- The Philipian jailer and his family were baptized - *Acts 16:33*
- Converts at Corinth were baptized - *Acts 18:8*
- Crispus, Gaius and the household of Stephanas were baptized by Paul - *1 Corinthians 1:14-17*

Instructions

- Sign up for baptism at the welcome center & began to tell family & friends about it!
- Fill out a baptism application and turn in to the welcome center or email to info@wyandottefamily.com at least a week before baptism
- Meet at 9:00am the week before the baptism gathering . Make sure that you are on time or early.
- Bring dark colored clothes to be baptized in. A dark colored T-shirt and dark sweat, jeans or slacks would be advisable.
- Bring a complete change of clothes to change into after being baptized.
- Bring a towel, hair dryer, make-up, etc. as well as a plastic bag to put your wet clothes in.
- Be prepared to give a verbal testimony before you are baptized. This means sharing about how you crossed the line into a relationship with Jesus and how He has changed and is changing your life.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the church office at 734.288.8039



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