



HUTTO BIBLE CHURCH

- BAPTISM POLICY -

Baptism is an essential "first step" for a believer who seeks to become a follower of Jesus Christ. In taking it, he/she reveals that a coup has taken place in the secret recesses of his/her soul. The government of self has been toppled and overthrown. In its place, a new authority now reigns and rules. It is Christ, the living Lord!

We at Hutto Bible Church uphold the act of baptism as a sacred, uncompromisable injunction of the Scripture. Every believer, serious in his or her faith, will also be serious about baptism. It is the "badge" of our identity with Christ. In many ways, baptism is to Christianity what a ring is to marriage.

We practice baptism by immersion. We feel strongly that this mode is the one presented in the New Testament for the following reasons:

- * The Greek word for baptism means "to submerge, plunge, drench, saturate, dip" (Arndt and Gingrich Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament p.131).
- * Immersion followed the Jewish proselyte practice.
- * Immersion most practically pictures the symbolism intended in baptism. See Romans 6:4.
- * The practice of the early church was immersion.

WHY should you be baptized?

The command of Scripture is "be baptized." By it we both please the Lord and declare His reality in our lives to the world (Matt. 28:19-20).

A picture is worth a thousand words. The picture portrayed in baptism declares a variety of scriptural truths:

- * It proclaims Christ's death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
- * It serves public notice to the world of one's new life in Christ (Matt. 10:32).
- * It pictures a believer's death to sin and his/her resurrection to a spiritual life and lifestyle through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:3-7, 10-11).

WHO can be baptized?

Hutto Bible Church practices "believer's baptism." Scripture teaches that one must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in order to be baptized.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

A believer is someone who has asked Jesus Christ to come into their life, to become their Lord and Savior.

WHEN can one be baptized?

Baptism is an essential "first step" for a believer who seeks to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. In taking it, he/she reveals that a coup has taken place in the secret recesses of his/her soul. The government of self has been toppled and overthrown. In its place, a new authority now reigns and rules. It is Christ, the living Lord!

It is very important that a believer be able to verbalize this newfound faith with others! Because the sharing of a testimony is part of Hutto Bible's baptism process, we would like anyone who desires baptism to be able to share **personally** how they received Christ, and what He has done in their life.

Young children need to fully understand the importance of what baptism signifies and how it relates to their Christian walk. Waiting for the time when they understand this would be more meaningful to them as new believers.

WHO will baptize me?

The Pastors of Hutto Bible Church are always ready and willing to baptize church members. Sometimes, however, there are other people who have played a significant role in your coming to Christ, or in your spiritual development. You may ask one or more of them to participate with you in the baptism. A pastor of Hutto Bible will oversee the baptism, but welcomes significant others to be involved. If you desire to have someone other than a pastor baptize you, this person must be approved in advance (by our Senior Pastor). Parents of children will have the opportunity to submit a name(s) after the second baptism class. For adults and teens, it would be helpful to have this person attend your testimony meeting (usually one week before baptism) and any subsequent informational meetings leading up to the baptism.

WHERE does Hutto Bible baptize?

Hutto Bible Church now owns our very own baptismal. We will regularly celebrate baptisms as a part of each service on the last Sunday of every month.

HOW is the baptism conducted?

A pastor will give a brief explanation of what will take place during the baptism. When it is your turn, you will be asked to enter the water and stand facing the congregation. The pastor will introduce you, tell a bit of your story and ask you if you have received Christ as your savior & Lord and wanting to follow Him in believer's baptism. When that is complete, he will usually say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost", after which he will immerse you in the water. (You may hold your nose!)

WHAT should I bring to the baptism?

- o Yourself (You may wear any conservative clothing you want to be baptized in)
- o Significant others who will be participating with you
- o A change of clothes and towel or two

HOW do I sign up to be baptized?

Simply contact the church office and let them know you are interested and you will receive more information: info@huttobible.com / (512) 535-1431.