



REDEMPTION CHURCH

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review the following information about Baptism. If you have questions, or would like to sign up for baptism, please contact the church office at (815) 975-9621.

I. Why Should I Be Baptized?

A. To follow the example set by Christ.

“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (Mark 1:9)

B. Because Christ commands it.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

C. It demonstrates that I really am a Believer.

“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.” (1 John 2:3)

II. What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

A. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scripture” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

“having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

B. It Illustrates my new life as a Christian.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

C. Baptism doesn’t make you a Christian.

Only your faith in Christ can make you a Christian. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it’s the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart. (See Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (Matthew 3:16)

B. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(for example)....”And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:38-39)

C. The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”

D. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection (see Romans 6:1-11).

E. The founders of major denominations agree:

Martin Luther (founder of the Lutheran denomination):

“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin (founder of the Presbyterian denomination):

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

John Wesley (founder of the Methodist and Wesleyan denomination):

“Buried with Him” alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.

IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ. A Believer is someone who has realized that their sin separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through their good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A Believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).

V. What About Children?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the person did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual’s decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation. (Acts 2:21; 8:12; 10:47-48). At Redemption Church we wait until a child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them into the Christian faith.

VI. What About Infant Baptism?

In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So it seems more Biblical to wait until after a personal decision to trust Christ as Lord and Savior has been made by the child. The Bible teaches that baptism is a public declaration of salvation, only people who have intentionally received salvation would experience baptism.

If you have not experienced adult baptism, even though you experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer.

VII. When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed. There is no reason to wait, we would love to help you take your next step through baptism. “But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12)