

OPENWATER CHURCH BAPTISM DETAILS

Article #3

At Openwater Church, it is a membership requirement that every member have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated by emersion, after they come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ even though many of us were “confirmed” or “sprinkled” as children. We want to make it very clear that Baptism by emersion doesn’t make you a believer — it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you; only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you have made in your heart. Here are the reasons for this Biblical requirement of Baptism by emersion after conversion.

To follow the example set by Jesus. Jesus was baptized that way.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” Mark 1:9 (NIV)

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

To follow what Christ commands.

(Jesus) “ ‘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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age...’ ” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

To demonstrate to the world that I really am a believer.

“...[M]any of the Corinthians who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8 (NIV)

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3 (NIV)

It illustrates Christ’s death and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He was raised on the third day...” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12 (GN)

Because it best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

The founders of various denominations agree:

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

John Calvin (Presbyterian)... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley (Methodist)... "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

"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 (NIV)

According to the ancient language every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(For example) "...[T]hen both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39 (LB)

The word "Baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptizo" that means "to dip under or immerse in water."

When should I be baptized?

Many people ask when they should be baptized. The simple answer is as soon as you have believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. "Those who believed...were baptized...that day!" Acts 2:41 (LB)

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38 (LB)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect," you'll never feel "good enough!"

How do I sign up to be baptized?

Check out the website or our bulletin for upcoming baptism dates and indicate on the communication card in our bulletin your interest in being baptized. You can also call the office at 813-920-9922 or email the church office@openwaterchurch.com if the dates don't fit your schedule.

NEXT STEP

Now that you have read the articles #1 "Illuminate Vision", #2 " Know the Gospel", #3 "Openwater Church Baptism Details", and signed up to be baptized please go to the Vision page of our website and click on and read the article #4 "Live the Gospel".