



Water Baptism

Believers' Baptism

- We only baptize those who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior. We dedicate infants, but we don't baptize them. Baptism of babies is meaningful to the parents, but not to the babies themselves. We wait until they are old enough to understand what it means to give their lives to Jesus. We call that the age of accountability.
- Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. We publicly proclaim that Jesus is our Lord, that He changed us when we gave our lives to Him.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

- We go down into the water as a symbol of being with Jesus in His death, a symbol of Jesus taking our sins and paying for them with His death on the cross.
- We're completely submerged under the water as a symbol of Jesus' burial. His body was placed in a tomb for 3 days while His spirit was in Hell.
- We come up out of the water as a symbol of being with Jesus in His resurrection. He rose triumphant from death, completely sinless, completely free from all effects of the devil. Jesus' blood has washed us completely. We're free from our sins and our spirit is recreated without the sin nature we had before we were saved, and He's given us His Holy Spirit to dwell within us.

Why do we baptize?

- Jesus was baptized by immersion by John the Baptist; we're following His example.
 - Matthew 3:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

¹⁴And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be* so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God



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descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- We’re commanded by Jesus to baptize believers. And to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Instructions

- We use an oval stock tank with heated water. You’ll climb in and sit down in the tank,
- Wear loose fitting dark shirt with either jeans or other dark pants or shorts. Bare feet or watershoes are fine.
- Bring a towel to dry off with and dry clothes to change into.
- We’ll do the baptisms at the end of the service so you don’t have to sit back down with wet hair.
- I’ll ask you to step into the tank, and be seated with your feet just about touching the end of the tank, facing the podium.
- I’ll ask you why you’ve come to be baptized. If you want to give a short testimony, please do. I won’t embarrass you – if you don’t have any answer, I’ll just ask you a couple of easy questions. If you think of it, tell everyone that you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you don’t, that’s fine, I’ll just ask you.
- I’ll say “Upon your profession of faith, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” This is a good time grab and hold your nose so you don’t get water in it. I’ll dunk you down and pull you right back up.
- You can stand up and climb out. We’ll have your towel ready; you can go into the restroom and dry off and change your clothes.
- Congratulations!!