



shadow**ROCK**  
CHURCH

## WATER BAPTISM

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It is a symbol that Jesus himself came up with, symbolizing that we are dying to our old self and raising up again as a new creation.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD CHANGE



"Before I had gotten baptized, I felt like there was something missing from my relationship with God. Since the day that I was baptized, my relationship with Him has grown deeper and more intimate than it ever was before. I'll always be grateful to SRC and the people who supported me in my decision to take that life-changing step in my walk with God."

- Emma

### What is the meaning of Baptism?

**1. It illustrates our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.**

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried, and He rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)

**2. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian, but it is an important public ceremony commemorating your faith in Christ.**

Only your faith in Christ makes you a Christian and transforms your life and eternity. 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)

### Why should I be baptised?

**1. To follow the example set by Christ.**

Mark 1:9 "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river."

## 2. Because Jesus commanded it.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciple, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you.'"

## 3. It is a public symbol of our new faith in Christ.

1 John 2:3 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.

## 4. To tell others of the story of what Jesus has done in our life... and could do in theirs!

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

## 5. Baptism is an initiation ceremony into the church: The community of Christ dedicated to love the world the way Jesus did!

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## 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 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At Shadow Rock, we wait until the 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.

## What about infant baptism?

In the Bible, we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and 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 Savior has been made by the child. If baptism is a public profession of salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. If you have not experienced adult baptism, even though you have 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 in Christ.

## When should I be baptised?

As soon as you have believed. Acts 8:12 - "But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

## Does this mean it has to be immediately?

No, but the Bible teaches that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are "good" enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

**Learn more by filling out a Connect Card and write "Baptism Lunch" to reserve your spot at the Baptism Informational Lunch offered in the fall 2021. You can also email us at [info@shadowrockchurch.com](mailto:info@shadowrockchurch.com).**



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