



THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

Baptism is an external picture of an internal change. It is a symbol of something that has already happened in regards to our relationship and faith in Jesus.

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

1. It identifies me with Christ in His death and resurrection.

"...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead." - Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. Being baptized in front of people is an amazing way to illustrate your new life in Christ. You are letting everyone know about your decision to follow Him.

"By our baptism, then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life." - Romans 6:4

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (LB)

3. It demonstrates my obedience to Christ.

John 14:15 says "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Remember, baptism does not wash away your sin. Only Jesus can do that! It does not make you believe - it demonstrates that you already believe in Christ.

HOW SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

At JOURNEY CHURCH, we baptize people by immersion, that is, placing them under the water. Why do we do it this way? The New Testament was originally written in Greek and later translated into English. The Greek word "baptizo" means to immerse under water. So when the writers used the word "baptize," they were literally talking about placing people under the water.

1. Jesus was baptized by immersion. "As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." - Matthew 3:16.

2. The New Testament believers were baptized by immersion. "...Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." -Acts 8:38-39. In fact, every time someone was baptized in the New Testament, it was by immersion.

WHEN DO I GET BAPTIZED?

Every person should be baptized after they have believed in Christ. "Those who believe were baptized that day." (Acts 2:41) Just like it wouldn't mean much to wear a wedding ring before you are officially married, being baptized before you begin your journey with Jesus loses the meaning.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

Some churches practice a "Baptism of Confirmation" for children by sprinkling them. This covenant between the parents and God to raise their children in the faith began as a custom some three hundred years after the Bible was completed. While the Bible certainly does not forbid this practice, we don't think it has the same meaning as being baptized after you have decided to follow Jesus. Several times throughout the year, we will dedicate children to God. As a church, we partner with parents to raise their children in a way that honors God. We want to stand with parents to dedicate their children to God, pray for them throughout their lives, and see them come to the place where they decide to follow Jesus for themselves. Therefore, it is at the discretion of both the parents, the child, and the pastor to determine if a child understands faith in Jesus and if he/she wants to get baptized.