



WESTSIDE
ALLIANCE CHURCH
SHINING JESUS' LIGHT

BAPTISM

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Romans 10:8-10 (ESV)

Confession of our faith in a public way is an expression of our heart choice to follow Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. Through water baptism, believers in Christ publicly proclaim the testimony that they have been saved by the grace of God.

Being baptized with water does not save us; faith in the finished work of Christ saves us. Being baptized declares that we are saved

In Acts 2:38 Peter declared to those gathered on Pentecost,

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." (ESV)

Water baptism is an outward indication of an inward change. It is a demonstration in our lives that we embrace Christ's death and burial, the cleansing of our hearts and the washing away of our sin by the blood of Jesus. His resurrection brings us new life.

"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 (ESV)

Engage with the following study of the Scriptures regarding baptism and as you learn about baptism, consider your decision to be baptized...

Baptism is one of the two ordinances of the church. Ordinances are the outward rites which Christ has appointed to be administered in the church and in the life of the believer as visible signs and seals of the saving truth of the Gospel. The two ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion).

What is Baptism?

By definition baptism is an initiatory rite of admission into the Christian Church and a symbol of our union with Christ, but it is far more than just a symbol as it signifies the burying of our earthly life and rising to new life in Christ. The following verses identify our action in baptism:

- Romans 6:3-4 -- an act of identification with Christ
- Romans 6:13 -- an act of dedication to Christ
- Matthew 28:19 -- an act of obedience to Christ
- Romans 10:9-10 -- an act of confession of our faith
- Romans 8:19 -- an act of declaration with Christ

In the Christian and Missionary Alliance and here at Westside Alliance Church we believe in baptism by immersion. The immersion, going under the water, is a symbol of death, and the raising from the water is a symbol of the new life that we have in Christ. This action ties us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, recognizing that our life comes through the life giving action of Christ.

The significance of baptism is twofold: first, it is a mark of being a disciple of Jesus and public confession of Christ as Saviour and Lord; second, it is the sign and seal of participation by faith in the death and resurrection of Christ.

We recognize that there are other methods of baptism practiced by other churches and other denominations as their tradition or circumstance has proved. The key factor that we take into account is that the baptism is believers' baptism. Many have been baptized as infants or children without having first made a personal choice in faith to follow Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. The decision to be baptized again as a believer is a choice for each individual person to make before God. If you have further questions on this please speak with the Pastor or one of the Elders.

How should we Baptize?

John 3:23, Acts 8:36 -- Baptism required the use of much water

Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10 -- Baptism required going down into the water
Acts 8:38,39 and coming up out of the water

There are many verses that affirm immersion as the method of baptism:
Acts 2:38-41, Acts 8:12, Romans 6:1-4, I Corinthians 10:1-2, Colossians 2:12

It is important to note here that baptism is not what saves us. There must be a profession of faith prior to being baptized. Baptism is a public confirmation of that confession of faith.

Why Baptize?

Matthew 3:13 -- Jesus set the example

Matthew 28:19 -- Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize

The early church practiced it regularly and consistently ... Review what they did.

Acts 2:38-41 -

Acts 16:14-15 -

Acts 8:12-13 -

Acts 16:33

Acts 8:36-39

Acts 18:8

Acts 9:18

Acts 19:5

Acts 10:47-48 -

Who should be Baptized?

Acts 18:8 -- those who have heard with faith and believed that Jesus is the Messiah

Acts 8:12, 37 -- those who believe (both men and women)

Acts 2:38 -- those who have repented

Acts 9:18 -- those who have been converted

Matthew 28:19 -- those who have been taught

In Acts 8:34-38, what did the Ethiopian Eunuch hear that made him desire baptism?

How long should people wait before they get baptized?

Read Acts 2:38, Acts 10:44-48 and Acts 16:33

What are some of the benefits of baptism according to the following verses:

1 Peter 3:20-21 -

Romans 6:4-7 -

Colossians 2:12,15 -

Acts 2:41-

Galatians 3:27,28 -

Luke 7:30-

Matthew 3:13-16-

Acts 8:38-39 -

As you have taken the time to work through this study, have you considered your own baptism?

If you have made a commitment accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. It is time to be baptized.

Next Steps:

1. Contact the Pastor or one of the Elders and let them know that you would like to get baptized.
- you may also do this by tearing off the portion of the page below and placing it in the offering jar
2. Begin thinking about who you would like to invite to your baptism that doesn't know who Jesus is.
3. Your word of testimony can be given or you may answer a series of questions reflecting your faith. Consider which you format of confession you would like to follow. If you wish to give your testimony, begin thinking about what you would like to say that acknowledges your decision to accept Jesus as your Saviour. If you need assistance in doing this please ask.

_____ Detach Here _____

I would like to have a conversation with the Pastor about Baptism.

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Email (optional): _____