

Baptism

WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

Baptism is important because Jesus said it was important. In His final command to His disciples, Jesus gave them their mission. Included in that mission was baptizing those who believed in Jesus as their Savior.

Jesus said *“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...”* (Matthew 28:19).

Baptism is a public declaration that we are a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism illustrates the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. When we are baptized, we are symbolically showing that we belong to Christ and that He has brought us from death to life through faith in His work on the cross.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Only those who have believed the message of Jesus Christ and placed their faith in Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12,13).

WHY SHOULD BELIEVERS BE BAPTIZED?

We should not be baptized because others are baptized or because we think that it will ensure our salvation. We should be baptized because:

- Jesus was baptized (Mark 1:9).
- Jesus commands it (Matthew 28:19).
- It demonstrates that we believe in Jesus (Acts 18:8).
- It illustrates my new life in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Ideally, baptism should take place as soon as you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior (Acts 8:26-39; 16:29-33).

Nowhere in the Bible are infants baptized. Since the Bible clearly teaches that we should be baptized once we have believed in Christ, it is clear that a person needs to be old enough to understand the Gospel and the significance of baptism.

HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible teaches one method of baptism which is by immersion. The Bible makes this clear in several ways.

First, the word baptism in the Bible means to immerse or dip under water.

Second, Jesus was baptized by immersion (Matthew 3:16).

Third, every baptism in the Bible is done by immersion (Acts 8:38,39).

Fourth, it best symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Coming out of the water symbolically shows the new life we have in Christ.

“Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away...” – Acts 8:38,39

CORNERSTONE’S VIEW ON BAPTISM

Cornerstone seeks to follow the Bible’s teaching on all matters including Baptism. Therefore, we believe that baptism does not remove sin or save a person. Salvation only comes through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Baptism by immersion is a necessary step of obedience for every Believer and a requirement for membership in this church.

If a Christian has been baptized as an infant or as an unbeliever or has been baptized by a different method such as sprinkling, they still need to be baptized by immersion because it is the teaching of the Bible, God’s Word.

If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and have never been baptized by immersion, you are invited to take that step of obedience. Let the Pastor of Cornerstone know of your desire to be baptized by emailing Pastor Stuart at pastorstuart@cornerstonecommunity.org