



**BAPTISM**

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a necessary step in your spiritual journey with Christ. Baptism does not make you a believer. It is an outward expression of your inner faith commitment to Him. In the Bible, we see that first a person comes to believe in Jesus and then he or she is baptized as an expression of that belief.

## WHY BE BAPTIZED?

To follow Christ's example:

*One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. (Mark 1:9 NLT)*

To be obedient to Jesus' command:

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these disciples to obey all the commands I have given you... (Matthew 28:19,20a NLT)*

## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible tells us that anyone who believes in Jesus should be baptized. This includes people who came to know Jesus earlier in life but for whatever reason, were not baptized.

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who accepted his message were baptized..." (Acts 2:38, 41a NLT)*

## WHY BAPTISM BY IMMERSION?

- Jesus was baptized by immersion (Matthew 3:16)
- Every baptism in the New Testament was done by immersion. (Acts 8:38-39)
- The very word "baptize" means to "immerse by dipping" (although some churches interpret this differently, we feel it is the most accurate description of baptism).
- Immersion best symbolizes the burial and resurrection of Jesus! Baptism by immersion is a personal identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which symbolizes dying to our old life. (Colossians 2:9-15)

## WHAT ABOUT BAPTIZING CHILDREN?

At CrossWinds, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them (typically 7-8 years old). In the Bible, Jesus taught children and prayed for them. But He did not baptize them or command others to baptize them. We believe that children are already under the protection and grace of God until they reach an age when they understand that they are sinners in need of God's forgiveness. We do conduct child dedications, which is a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal decision.

## WHEN ARE BAPTISMS?

There are several opportunities for baptism throughout the year. We conduct baptisms in an open format which means we baptize people as they become ready and express interest in doing so. Child dedications are normally conducted two Sunday mornings per year (usually in May and December).

## I'M READY TO BE BAPTIZED.

## WHAT'S MY NEXT STEP?

For questions or registration for baptism, please contact: Danielle Owens for children: [dowens@crosswindschurch.org](mailto:dowens@crosswindschurch.org); Ed Burton for junior high: [eburton@crosswindschurch.org](mailto:eburton@crosswindschurch.org); Kim Bonilla for high school: [kbonilla@crosswindschurch.org](mailto:kbonilla@crosswindschurch.org); and Jodie Tey for adults: [jtey@crosswindschurch.org](mailto:jtey@crosswindschurch.org). For general questions, please contact Jodie Tey: 925-560-3800 x. 117.

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