

BAPTISM

As a Christ-follower, one of the things you'll want to do is express to others your desire and commitment to follow Christ. Making the decision to be baptized is a timeless way to express this. Jesus himself was baptized for our example, as a symbol of new life and obedience to God the Father (*Mark 1:9*). At Cheyenne Hills, we provide regular opportunities for baptism for those who have made a decision to follow Christ and want to follow His example.

BAPTISM FOLLOWS BELIEF

Being baptized can't make anyone a Christian. We become Christians when we ask Jesus to be our Savior and take control of our lives. Water doesn't take away sin or have any magical property for changing us. Jesus' act of love for us on the cross takes away our sin. His blood atones for the guilt of sin, as the Bible reminds us: *"For you know... that you were redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ."* (1 Peter 1:18-19)

We're reminded that we can't do anything to purchase our own salvation or change our hearts. God does all of that. This was all part of God's perfect plan for our lives. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Therefore, Baptism comes after our salvation experience, not before. As the Apostle Paul told some of the very first Christians, *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ."* (Acts 2:38)

WHY BAPTISM IS IMPORTANT

As we mentioned before, Jesus himself set the example for being baptized as an act of obedience. *"At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth to Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River."* (Mark 1:9)

Jesus then commanded his followers to go and baptize other believers. *"Jesus said, 'Go, then, to people everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 18:19-20a)*

BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

We believe in baptism by immersion. This is where the participant is submerged under water and is the only method used by those in the Bible (*Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 8:36-39*).

These biblical descriptions imply baptism by immersion since believers are depicted as going down into and coming up out of the water. The word "baptize" comes from a Greek word, "baptizo," which means "to dip, immerse or plunge." The picture implies the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and is also symbolic of a new birth for the believer and our identification with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Both archaeology and church history testify that immersion was the mode of baptism used by the early church.

INFANTS AND BAPTISM

We believe in Believer's Baptism, which is really only possible for those who are able to make decisions to follow Christ. For this reason, we ask parents to wait until their children are old enough to make this decision so that they can understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Child Dedications provide the opportunity for parents to have their children presented to the congregation for prayer as a part of the parents' commitment to raise the child in a Christ-centered faith. Please see the Parent/Child Dedication FYI sheet.

BAPTISM & CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We ask that those wishing to become church members be baptized by immersion, either at Cheyenne Hills or at another church. We encourage you to attend our Info 101 and 201 if you want to know more about baptism and church membership. Dates and times for these classes are listed in the weekly church program and on our website under the events page where you can also sign up to attend. To sign up to be baptized go to www.cheyennehills.org/#/events/baptism

