

Celebrating Belief through Baptism

The Scriptures teach that baptism is one of the major ways believers proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ. It is a celebration of the life-transformation that occurs through this belief.

1. What is the meaning of baptism?

- Baptism is a PICTURE that illustrates our union with Christ's 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

- Baptism is a symbol that TESTIFIES to my new life as a follower of Jesus Christ.

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4

2. Why should I be baptized?

- Baptism PUBLICALLY identifies you with Jesus Christ.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." Mark 1:9

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." Acts 2:41

- Baptism is an act of OBEDIENCE.

"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matt 28:19-20a

- Baptism DOES NOT make you a believer. Baptism is the outward, public sign that testifies to others that you have given your life to Jesus. Wearing a wedding ring does not make you a married person but does show others that you are married.

3. Why does Cityview baptize by immersion?

- We immerse because the Greek word baptizo means "to immerse in water."
- We immerse because that was the practice of the New Testament. Philip - Acts 8:38b
- We immerse because immersion best symbolizes the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Some denominations practice "baptism of children." Because infant baptism was neither commanded nor practiced in the New Testament, we do not practice it. We have a ceremony of child dedication that expresses the commitment to raise children in a godly fashion and reserves the practice of baptism for those who have personally believed in Jesus.