



BAPTISM Q & A

Q: What is the meaning of baptism?

A: We believe baptism:

1. Illustrates Christ's Burial and Resurrection

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) "For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." (Colossians 2:12)

2. It Illustrates Our Life as a Christian

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and the new life has begun." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so we also may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Baptism does not make you a believer - it shows you already believe. Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ does that.

"For it is by [grace](#) that you have been saved, [through faith](#)...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Q: Why is baptism important?

A: Baptism is important because:

1. We are Baptized to Follow Jesus' Example

"At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9)

2. Because Christ Commands It

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all 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 that I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:19-20)

3. It Demonstrates that You are a Believer

"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

Q: Why is baptism by immersion?

A: The word "baptize" means "to dip under water." the Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water." It best symbolizes the Burial and Resurrection.

Q: Why doesn't Hope baptize infants?

A: At Hope, we encourage believer's baptism - meaning we believe that it is biblical for someone to make the decision to follow Jesus on their own. The decision to follow Jesus is one that is personal. Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. The ceremony is intended to be 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 own personal confession of Christ (Ask about our '[Parent Dedication](#)' for this!). This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

Q: Who can baptize people?

A: Anyone who has a personal relationship with Jesus and who has been baptized as a believer can baptize others! Many parents who attend Hope were baptized as an infant. We encourage them to consider being baptized again now that they understand their decision to follow Jesus. Many parents get baptized first, and then turn around and baptize their child!