



Believer's Baptism

CALVARY MONUMENT BIBLE CHURCH
CHRIST / MISSION / BIBLE / COMMUNITY

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BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Baptism celebrates the believer's entrance into Christ's church. The CMBC doctrinal statement states that "we believe in the ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age." [Constitution, Article IV, 11b]

Some common questions regarding Baptism:

Why be Baptized?

To follow the example set by Jesus Christ. "Mark 1:9-10—*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water...*"

Because Christ Commanded it. The Lord Jesus instituted water baptism prior to his ascension when he commanded, "*go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" [Matthew 28:19-20]

It demonstrates that I really am a believer. Luke in Acts 2 states "*so those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*" Later in Acts 18, Luke says "*Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.*" 1 John 2:3 reminds us that "*we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*"

What is the meaning of Baptism?

It illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 writes *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures."* In Colossians 2:12 Paul writes *"having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."*

It illustrates my new life as a Christian. Romans 6:4 tells us *"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."* Baptism does not make you a believer, but it demonstrates that you already believe. It is very important to understand that baptism does not save you. We are saved only by our faith in Jesus: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"* [Ephesians 2:8-9]

Baptism is like a wedding ring—it is an outward symbol of the inward commitment you make in your heart.

Why be Baptized by Immersion?

Because Jesus was baptized that way. Matthew describes the scene at the Jordan river *"and when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water..."*

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. For example, in Acts 8:38-39, we read *"And he (the eunuch) commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water..."*

The word "baptize" means to dip. The basic verb in Greek (bapto) means to dip in or under. In the New Testament this word occurs rarely but always with the literal sense of going under. The more frequent word used in the Greek (baptizo) is what is mostly used for the word baptism. This word has

the connotation of immerse, sink, drown, go under, sink into, and bathe.

Immersion best symbolizes a burial and resurrection. Baptism reenacts each believer's conversion. Our death in Christ is symbolized by going under the water, and our resurrection in him by coming up from the water. 2 Corinthians 5:17 illustrates this—*“therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.”*

Who should be Baptized?

Every person who believes in Christ! Two examples from the book of Acts:

Acts 2:41 *“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”*

Acts 8:12 *“But when they believed Phillip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”*

What if I was Baptized as an Infant?

Some churches baptize infants. At Calvary Monument Bible Church we do not [see Doctrinal Statement in the Constitution, Article IV, 11b]. We only baptize those who have made a decision to believe in Christ's death as the payment for their sin. In the Bible, men and women were baptized following their belief in Jesus.

The custom of infant baptism began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. It is a ceremony intended to emphasize a commitment between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. During this ceremony, the parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ.

At CMBC, we have a dedication service for infants and children that emphasize the parent's role in raising a child to follow Christ. Therefore, if you were baptized as a baby, we encourage you to be baptized by immersion as a believer.

When should I be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed! Acts 8 tells the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch:

And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him...³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized.

Baptism is the Bible’s public profession of faith and for that reason it is usually done as soon as possible. This often provides an anchor of assurance to those who wrestle with uncertainty about their salvation.

In addition, Baptism is a way to give glory to God as you give your testimony of Salvation.

Resources Used:

Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright 2001

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Volume 1, copyright 1979.

New Life Bible Church, Fayetteville, NC, Baptism Handout

Pastors Service Manual, Lee Eclave, Editor, Evangelical Free Church of America, copyright 2000

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**CALVARY MONUMENT BIBLE CHURCH
BAPTISM APPLICATION**

1. Last name _____ First name _____

2. Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

3. Your date of birth: ___/___/_____

4. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?

Yes

No

A. Give approximate date and place of conversion:

B. On what Scripture do you base your assurance of salvation? _____

C. When you were saved, did you:

1) Acknowledge that you were a sinner who could not save yourself by your works (Eph. 2:1-9)?

Yes

No

2) Accept by faith the gift of God, which is salvation through the finished work of Jesus Christ and His sufficient, substitutionary, blood-sacrifice on the cross of Calvary?

Yes

No

3) Receive eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord?

Yes

No

Signature _____

Date _____

