

BAPTISM



After you begin your relationship with Jesus, it starts the process of a life long relationship with God. That relationship involves a continual process of getting to know Jesus and taking next steps in your relationship. In the book of Acts, in the Bible, the very first step to reflect this desire in your life to follow Jesus, was through baptism.

Biblical baptism.



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

“
Baptism is like a wedding ring - it is the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart, and that of inner change.
”

1. It illustrates Jesus' death, 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 raised with Christ."
Colossians 2:12

2. It's a living picture of my new life as a follower of Jesus. See Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a follower of Jesus, it demonstrates that you already have decided to follow Jesus. It is important to understand that baptism does not secure a relationship with God. That relationship with God happens only by grace through your Faith in Jesus and what he did for you on the cross. "For it is by grace 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

EXPERIENCE HOPE @ HCC

I'VE GOT QUESTIONS...

Q: Why baptism by immersion?

Definition: Immersion (being "dunked" under the water)

A: Jesus was baptized that way in Matthew 3:16

Every Baptism in the Bible was by immersion

Acts 8:38-39

The Word "Baptize" Actually means "to dip under water"

Immersion best symbolizes a death and resurrection.

"If anyone is a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. "The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Q: What if I was baptized as an infant?

A: In the Bible men and women were baptized following their belief in Jesus. We believe that baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Jesus alone for their salvation. An infant, although treasured by God, is not yet capable of making that decision. Infant baptism is a ceremony intended to emphasize a commitment between the parents and God, on behalf of the child.

During the ceremony, the parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal decision about Jesus.



“

At Hope Community Church we believe that baptism is a vital step in your walk with Jesus.

”

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTISED?

It follows Jesus' example (Mark 1:9)

We are baptized because Jesus expected it & it demonstrates that we're really following his lead. (1 John 2:3)

It is an act of obedience as Jesus said "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. and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

As soon as you have decided to follow Jesus by personally accepting what he did for you on the cross, you can be baptized.

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