

## BAPTISM

Baptism (and communion) are the two sacraments of the New Testament Church. The Greek term "*baptizo*" was used to describe the process whereby cloth was dipped into a vat of dye to change its color. Eventually the practice of baptism was used to indicate a person's association with a specific cause, idea or person. Those baptized by John (the Baptist) identified with their need to repent and change their ways (Mark 1:4). It was preparatory for the message of Christ (Acts 19:4,5).

Christianity borrowed and enhanced the practice. Believers were baptized to indicate their **unity**, **association** and **identity** with Jesus Christ and his teaching. Baptism is the *wedding ring* of the Christian faith. It is an outward act symbolizing a unique, one of a kind, inward relationship with Jesus Christ.

There are two things a person receives when baptized. First, they get wet. There is no special spiritual blessing bestowed upon a believer when baptized. Second, they experience the joy of obeying Christ. Baptism is meant to be done in the presence of others to indicate a willingness to be identified as a follower of Christ. To summarize Baptism is:

1. An act of obedience (Matthew 28:19) It is commanded by Christ.
2. For those who have already placed their faith in Christ (Acts 2:41, 8:12, 8:36, 10:47,48).
3. Baptism is an outward sign of inward regeneration (Galatians 3:27).
4. Baptism is symbolic of:
  - a. Our unity with Christ (Romans 6:1-10, Colossians 2:12)
  - b. Our new nature in Christ (Colossians 2:12)
  - c. Our resurrection with Christ (Romans 6:3-5)
  - d. Our cleansing from sin through the blood of Christ (Hebrews 10:22)

If, after having read over this information, you wish to be baptized, please contact the Church office. You will need to bring a change of clothes, as we practice baptism by immersion. It is most appropriate to be baptized in modest clothing (shorts and a dark t-shirt that is plain or inside out). You are encouraged to invite friends and family and take pictures.

Your baptism will consist of the following:

- I will ask if you have read over the information on this page.
- I will give you the opportunity to thank a few people who have been instrumental in helping you arriving at this moment in your life. It would be nice to have them present, if possible.
- I will then ask you the following question in the presence of others. "Are you trusting in the substitutional death of the risen Lord Jesus Christ for eternal, forgiven and abundant life?" If you answer "yes," I will then lower you into the water while saying, "Based on your confession of faith, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."