

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW MEMBER LESSON #7 – BAPTISM



INTRODUCTION

As Christians who are followers of the Baptist faith, we recognize and celebrate the ordinance or practices which Jesus Christ himself commanded his followers to carry out. These two practices are Baptism and Communion. The Lesson will focus primarily on Water Baptism, its purpose and process.

LESSON

The word, baptize means to “completely cover” or to “immerse.” Therefore, as Baptist we carry out the practice of baptism by being completely covered or immersed by water. This is how baptism was performed during the time that Jesus lived. Baptism represents the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:12)

Baptism is a sacred ceremony in which the candidate is submerged in water. This represents being buried with Christ and being raised to a new life in Christ. You will not drown, you are not a dry sinner coming out of the water a wet sinner, it is a public act confirming/announcing what you have already promised in your heart to yourself and God (hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and live righteously 'til death). This public act demonstrates to your family, friends, church family and community the personal commitment you made to love Jesus and make him your Lord and Savior.

We are baptized as a sign that show we are now followers of Christ. Baptism should take place after a person has truly believed that Jesus Christ died for his/her sins and that person has stated their belief publicly.

What Is Water Baptism?

Water baptism is one of the two ordinances Jesus left on record for the Church to practice (Matthew 28:19). The other is communion (which is the main focus in lesson 8). An ordinance is a rule made by one in authority, a decree. It is not an option that Christians may or may not choose to do. It has been commanded by Jesus and we do it as an act of obedience and love for our Savior. Remember that baptism alone will not save you. Going under the water represents burying your old life and coming up out of the water represent our resurrection, being raised to a new life in Christ Jesus.

Why Should We Be Baptized?

When you read Matthew 3:13-17; you will find that John was baptizing Jews in the river Jordan. Jesus came to be baptized. John said he was not worthy to baptize Jesus, for the Lord had no sin. But Jesus insisted that it would fulfill all righteousness, and he did baptize Him.

When Jesus and John came out of the water, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and rested on Jesus' shoulder. A voice came from heaven and said "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus was the sinless son of God who humbled himself and was baptized as an example for us to do what he did. We are followers of Christ and should follow the path he set in place for us.

What Happens After We Are Baptized

Baptism is the beginning of a lifetime commitment of dedication and service to God. There were 3 divine personalities revealed at Jesus Baptism. They were the Father (God), the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Helper). All three play a significant role in assisting us to live a Godly life.

Romans 6:4 tells us "we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Here are some suggestions to help you in this new relationship with the Lord:

1. **Seek God daily.** The most important commandment God gives us is to love Him above anything else. When you love someone, you seek a relationship with them. Whether that means a scheduled, daily quiet and Bible study time in the morning, noon or at night, or even constant prayers throughout the day just acknowledging Him. Seek God and a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Pray and talk to God as you would a friend. We can trust God with everything.
2. **Find community.** The Bible tells us to seek and we will find, knock and the door will be open. Nothing is harder than trying to do life alone. Ask God to show you where to Worship and Work. It is crucial that you find people to walk alongside you to help on this journey. God created us as social people, no matter how shy you are. Your tribe is here to help you, sharpen you, and support you. Join a fellowship of believers (Church) where you can grow and fellowship in unity.
3. **Start serving.** Whether it's working with kids, being creative, or just making someone smile, God has given you specific gifts, talents and abilities before you were born. These were given so that everyone would be able to serve each other and build each other up. God wants to use you and work through you! Serving not only helps others, it helps you.

Remember:

I'm not perfect, but God is; the more time I spend with Him, the more like Him I will become.

REVIEW

1. Define baptism?
2. Does baptism save us?
3. What does baptism announce?
4. What three personalities were revealed at Jesus baptism?
5. When should a person get baptized?
6. What can we do to enhance our growth after baptism?

Name

Date