



Baptism: Taking a Closer Look

What is baptism?

Baptism illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It is a public declaration of how Jesus changed your life. Being baptized doesn't make you a believer, or save you, but it shows that you already believe. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It's symbolism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart (Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:4).

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior should be baptized. In being obedient to Jesus' commandment of being baptized we encourage all believers to follow through with baptism (Acts 8:13).

When should I be baptized?

For everyone who has made a decision to follow Jesus should not delay in being baptized. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you're perfect, that time will never come (Acts 8:35-38).

Do you baptize children?

At EBC we believe that we can only point our children to Jesus, but they will one day have to commit their lives to following Him (Romans 10:9). If anyone makes a personal decision to follow Jesus, it must come from his or her own decision. At EBC we wait until children are old enough to express their own commitment to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior before we baptize them (Acts 8:12).

What's the difference between immersing, pouring, sprinkling, and other ways of baptizing?

We believe that the baptism practiced in the Bible was by immersion. Jesus, himself, was also baptized by immersion (Matthew 3:16). We believe that baptism by immersion is symbolic of Jesus' death and resurrection. We also believe that the best understanding of baptism in the New Testament comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means to dip under water (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Acts 8:38-39). We don't want to diminish anyone's previous baptism, nor is baptism a requirement to attend or be involved at EBC. In keeping with our historical roots, however, we desire all members to be baptized by immersion.

Do I Need to be Baptized Again?

If you haven't been baptized by immersion since you decided to follow Jesus, we want to invite you to explore taking this next step. At EBC we require all members to be baptized by immersion. So if you've been baptized by immersion then there are no other steps to take. However, if you have been baptized by another way we want to hear your story as you contemplate moving forward with baptism by immersion.

Is baptism your next step? Sign up to talk with a pastor about it.