

15. Baptism

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings.





Baptism is the door to the church and is essential for all who want to unite with the body of Christ.

- We all need baptism. Acts 2:38
- Belief in Jesus should be followed by baptism. Acts 8:12, 16:30-33
- Believers receive the promise of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Acts 2:38
- Baptism symbolizes forgiveness and cleansing. Acts 22:16
- Baptism unites us with Christ in His death and resurrection. Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:12-13
- Baptism unites us with the body of Christ, His church. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 2:41
- Baptism is by immersion. Acts 8:36-38; John 3:23

Instruction, affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance are three prerequisites for baptism.

- Instruction is essential so that Christians have a common ground of belief. Matthew 28: 18-20
- Baptism should follow public affirmation of faith in Jesus as Saviour. Acts 18:8.
- Our lives must show fruit of repentance before baptism. Matthew 3:7-8

Personal Application

-  What does it mean to die to sin?
-  Can the power that raised Jesus from the dead raise me from spiritual death?
-  What does it mean to be united with Christ?
-  Baptism is a wonderful privilege. It is the doorway through which I unite with Christ's church and can receive the power of His indwelling Spirit to live a victorious life.

Commitment

- Father, I confess Christ as my Saviour. I repent of my past. I want to die to sin and live a new, victorious life in Christ by the power of His indwelling Spirit. I want to unite with Christ's body, His church, through baptism.