

Understanding Water Baptism

Water Baptism is one of the two oldest and most revered practices in the Church worldwide and throughout history (the other being Communion). Much more than just a ritual, Water Baptism is a symbolic act which Jesus Himself practiced, taught to His disciples—even commanded that it be carried on until His return (Matthew 28.19). Baptism follows salvation as a public declaration of a person having accepted Christ as their Savior.

The practice of Water Baptism is a public testimony to the world, signifying the death of the individual’s sinful nature and new birth in Jesus Christ. It is an important event in the life of a Christ-Follower, confirming the transforming power of Jesus in their life.

“What if I was baptized as a child?”

Some persons were baptized as infants through a ceremony of sprinkling water (especially those raised in Catholic or Lutheran traditions). We believe that Jesus intended Baptism as a declaration of a person’s resolve to follow Him as Lord and Savior—essentially surrendering their life and will to Him and to His leadership. Even Jesus waited until He was an adult before being baptized (Luke 3.21-22). For this reason we reserve Water Baptism for those who understand their own Salvation in Christ and wish to make a declaration of *their* choice.

We offer Infant/Child Dedication to parents who wish to declare their intent to raise their child in a Godly fashion and to receive the blessing of the larger Spiritual community, just as Jesus’ parents did when He was still an infant (Luke 2.21-23).

Why baptism by Immersion?

Scripture *does not* declare that Baptism must be performed in any specific way, so we are careful not to dictate that either. However, the Water Baptism we see practiced in Scripture derives from the Jewish tradition of ritual bathing as a sign of repentance and renewal—typically by total immersion. The process of Baptism by total immersion is rich with symbolic meaning and is an unmistakable event.

**GOD HAS A DREAM
FOR YOUR LIFE**

- ✓ ATTEND START DREAMING LUNCH
- ✓ JOIN A VITAL GATHERING
- ✓ GET INVOLVED ON A TEAM
- ✓ MAKE A DECISION ABOUT CHRIST
- ✓ GET BAPTIZED
- next ○ BECOME A MEMBER
- PURSUE GOD’S DREAM FOR MY LIFE

Water Baptisms typically occur at our monthly ELEVATE Gatherings (1st Sunday evening of each month)

For more info, contact us at: (509) 397-6629 or email to connect@catalystchurch.life



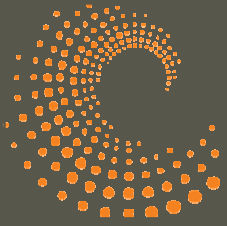
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WATER BAPTISM

what IS BAPTISM ALL ABOUT?

It is your *public declaration* that you have chosen to believe in and belong to Jesus Christ. Water Baptism is a declaration of your intention and desire to live a new way of life by God's power. This is not meant to be a promise to be good or perfect, but rather a statement of your desire to depend on the power of God's Spirit to honor God and love others in your day-to-day life. Water Baptism is also one way you choose to show your identification with the Body of Christ, the Church. If we belong to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body, we are also part of and belong in community with other members of the Body.

what DOES IT NOT MEAN?

Water Baptism does not wash away our sins—only the blood of Jesus can do that. Water Baptism does not make us a new person—it shows that we already *are* a new creation. Water Baptism is not a promise to never sin again—we must give ourselves to God each day by trusting the power of God's Spirit to keep us.

who SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Anyone who has committed their life to Christ who has not been baptized in water since that conversion experience. We provide a Baptism seminar the week before scheduled Baptism Services to help you understand more about this important step in faith.

(Please complete the following, detach this portion and return to a member of the Pastoral Staff)

I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and believe that I am born again by the power of God. I desire to be obedient to the command and example of Jesus to be baptized in water (Matthew 28.19).

I understand that water baptism is a public testimony of my confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and my decision to serve Him.

Name

Mailing Address

Phone #

Email

Birthdate

Signature*

Date

* Parents/Guardians of applicants under 18 yrs. old: It is your *responsibility* to determine your child's *eligibility* for Water Baptism. Water Baptism at CATALYST CHURCH is available for those *over 5 years old* who have an understanding of its meaning.