



BAPTISM

## What is Baptism?

Baptism is the biblical method of expression of faith in Jesus as your Savior. It is a public declaration of the new life that is in you. When you accept the forgiveness of Christ, He removes the guilt from your soul, and makes you into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is done by grace through faith, and is known simply as salvation. What happens after salvation, though? You begin your new life as a servant living in community with fellow believers. This new life is marked by the ordinance of baptism.

Baptism at High View is by immersion in water. You will be asked to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, be immersed in the water by the pastor, and raised out of the water in the presence of the community of High View Church. We believe this to be the biblical method which Jesus and his disciples followed. We do this in a public setting because baptism is a public symbol of your new inner change. It is an outward expression of an inward belief.

Baptism is not just a symbol in the same sense that a letter represents a phonetic sound. It is more like a wedding ring that symbolizes the love and bond between two people. While the letter acts simply as a translation, it is only pragmatic and has no personal meaning behind it. Nobody considers a letter's sound their life's passion or purpose. However, a wedding ring is given with love, and is an expression of that love in action. In the same

way, baptism is not just something that comes along with Christianity, but it is an act which

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Paul states in Romans 6:4 that, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Baptism is not a saving act, but one of association with the gospel. The gospel is summed up by Jesus' work in His life, death, burial, and resurrection. By giving yourself over to be baptized, you show that you have surrendered your old life and thereby associate yourself with Christ's death. The immersion in water is likened to the burial of Christ. The emergence back to the surface is your expression of the resurrection of Christ within you. As a believer in the gospel, you are a new creation because of Jesus' resurrection. Baptism is the public declaration of this change.

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, baptism is a commandment given many times throughout the New Testament (Mark 16:16; Luke 3:21; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27). It is clear in the Scriptures that baptism must follow salvation as an expression of the new life of Christ in the believer. This is perhaps the clearest ordinance given in the New Testament, and should never be neglected.

In Romans 6:13 Paul tells you to offer up yourself, "...to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness." You are not to hold back your body after your soul has been made new. Your body is the physical representation in this life of who you are. Therefore, it too must undergo the change which Christ brings. You are to mark yourself with the signs of the gospel, and this is done by baptism.

Furthermore, baptism is a big part of missional living in a number of ways. First, it binds you in a deep way to other baptized believers. Ephesians 4:4-6 teaches that Christians are united under the one Lord and one faith by one baptism. It is an aspect of our life in community with one another. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says that we were all baptized into one spirit despite our many differences. Baptism is a part of the community which is deeper than any other under the sun; the community of kingdom of God. This community is the greatest tool by which we can come to know Christ better, and by which we can show Him to our city and to the world. Secondly, baptism is a symbol to yourself and to all you minister to that you are a new creation. It is more than a ritual; it is a marking of Christ's life within you.

Baptism is a beautiful expression of faith and community in Jesus. It should be done after repentance and acceptance of Him. It should not be entered into lightly, but definitely should be entered into.

## How can I be baptized?

If you would like to be baptized, you can contact Pastor Brad Hovis via e-mail at [hovis@highviewchurch.com](mailto:hovis@highviewchurch.com).

He will schedule a meeting with you to explain in more detail what you must do to be baptized and to affirm your commitment to Jesus Christ. After this, a baptism service will be organized with the church body, and you will enter into the baptism along with High View Church and believers throughout God's kingdom worldwide.

