

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review the following information about Baptism. To sign up for baptism, please email us on our contact page. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at (925)634-4842.

### **I. Why Should I Be Baptized?**

#### **A. To follow the example set by Christ.**

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” (Mark 1:9)

#### **B. Because Christ commanded it.**

“Jesus, said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciple, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you.’” (Matthew 28:19-20)

#### **C. It demonstrates that I really am a Believer.**

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” (1 John 2:3)

### **II. What Is The Meaning of Baptism?**

#### **A. It Illustrates Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.**

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

#### **B. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.**

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

#### **C. Baptism doesn’t make you a Christian.**

Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it’s the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

### **III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?**

#### **A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.**

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” (Matthew 3:16)

#### **B. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38-39)

#### **C. The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”**

#### **D. It best symbolized a burial and resurrection**

(Romans 6:1-11)

#### **E. The founders of the major denominations agree:**

Martin Luther (found of Lutheran denomination):

“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Wesley (found of Methodist denomination): “Buried with Him” alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

### **IV. Who Should Be Baptized?**

Every person who has believed in Christ. A Believer is someone who has realized that their sin separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A Believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).



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#### V. What About Children?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the candidate did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At The Rock Church, we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them in the Christian faith.

#### VI. What About Infant Baptism?

In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So it seems more biblical to wait until after a personal decision to trust Christ has been made by the child. For if baptism signifies salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.

If you have not experienced believer's baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

#### VII. When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed. "Those who believed were baptized that day!" (Acts 2:41) (Acts 8:35-38)

#### VIII. Does This Mean It Has To Be Immediately?

No, but the Bible teaches that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are "good" enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

#### IX. What Do I Wear?

Dress in clothes you don't mind getting wet! You should wear a dark shirt, and feel free to wear either shorts or jeans. There will be a changing room available and you will also want to bring a towel. Remember to bring a change of clothes to wear home.

#### X. How Do I Register?

To register for our next baptism service, simply email us on our contact page. Someone will contact you soon.

