

# BAPTISM

Baptism expresses publicly what you have experienced personally as you committed your life to Jesus Christ.

## WHY DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?

### 1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." Mark 1:9

### 2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

### 3. IT IS MY PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

"... many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8  
"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." I John 2:3

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

### 1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." I Corinthians 15:3-4  
"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."

Colossians 2:12 This is the scripture that you will hear referred to during baptism.

### 2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so also we may live a new life!" Romans 6:4

## WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

### 1. BECAUSE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

### 2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) "... 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

### 3. THE WORD "BAPTIZE" MEANS "TO DIP UNDER WATER".

- The Greek word, "baptize" means to immerse or dip under water."
- It best symbolizes the burial and resurrection!

### 4. The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther ... "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imparts and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin ... "The word, 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley ... "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

### WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has accepted Christ should be baptized.

"Those who accepted His message were baptized ..." Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized ..." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

We wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children.

This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ.

This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose of believer's baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

Here at HHBC, it is a membership requirement that every member must be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were "confirmed as children."

### WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you believe!

Those who accepted His message were baptized ... that day!" Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with that very passage and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water!" Why shouldn't I be baptized? And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you decide to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized.

If you wait until you are perfect, you will never feel good enough!