

## ***What is the significance of baptism?***

### **Why should I consider getting baptized?**

#### **Following Christ:**

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, it is important to carefully consider what the Bible says about it... Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

*(Mark 1:9)*

#### **An Act of Obedience:**

Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

*(Matthew 28:19-20)*

#### **A Public Declaration:**

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for the Christian life.

*(Mark 16:16)*

## **What is the meaning and significance of baptism?**

#### **A Move from Death to Life:**

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead.

*(Colossians 2:12-14)*

#### **A Brand-New Life:**

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the 'old life' and we rise to walk in a 'new life'. Baptism is like a wedding ring, it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one!

*(2 Corinthians 5:17 & Romans 6:4)*

#### **A Blessed Life:**

In baptism, the believer has the triune name of the triune God placed upon them, 'Father', 'Son' & 'Holy Spirit'. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the name of the Godhead (one God in three persons). The Gospels tell us to baptize believers "... *into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*", *Matthew 28:19*.

Baptism confirms our position 'in Christ' and affirms the blessings of the Father on us as his children.

### **A New family:**

Baptism also connects us to the 'body of Christ', his people in the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

*(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)*

### **How, Who, & When?**

#### **How are we to be baptized?**

As per the example of Jesus ... by being immersed in water. The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptize" which means "to immerse or dip under water".

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

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The book of Acts shows us that this was the norm for every believer.

*"...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38,39.*

#### **Who should be baptized?**

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (*Romans 6*). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

*(Acts 2:41 & Acts 8:12)*

We believe in baptizing children when they are old enough to understand what it means and make a personal declaration of belief.

#### **When are we to be baptized?**

Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, they can be, and is encouraged to be baptized.

*(Acts 2:41 & Acts 8:35-39)*

If you have any other questions that we can help you with, please feel free to contact Pastor Jordan and Vinnie at [info@EthosOH.com](mailto:info@EthosOH.com)