



## What is Baptism?

- 💡 It is an \_\_\_\_\_ sign of an \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
- 💡 It occurs after a \_\_\_\_\_ confession of repentance and faith.  
*"And he (John) went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." –Luke 3:3*
- 💡 It is \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." –Matthew 28:18-19*
- 💡 It does not \_\_\_\_\_ you, but it is a way of \_\_\_\_\_ identifying yourself with Christ.  
*Romans 6:3-5  
Galatians 3:27  
Colossians 2:12*  
  
*"At the heart of baptism lies an astonishing claim, an astonishing reality: all the division, all the social groupings, all the forms of identity that serve to categorize, divide, estrange, and alienate one from the other—these are broken down. There is, for those who have been clothed with Christ in baptism, a new identity, an identity that transcends race, economic class, ethnic grouping, and citizenship."  
-Lee Camp*
- 💡 It is a mark of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"If you love me you will obey my commands." –John 14:15*
- 💡 It is a way of identifying yourself as a part of the \_\_\_\_\_ universal.

## How do I know I'm ready to be baptized?

- **I've been confronted with the truth about \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Acts 2:22-47*  
*Philippians 2:5-11*  
*Colossians 1:15-23*
- **I've been confronted with the truth about \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Romans 3:23*
- **I've been \_\_\_\_\_ by these truths.**  
*"The gospel is not the ABC's of Christianity, it's A to Z. It's not just the elementary and introductory truths. The gospel is what drives everything that we do." -Tim Keller*
- **I desire, with God's help, to live as a \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

## What should I do after I am baptized?

- **Get connected with Christian \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." -Hebrews 10:24-25*
- **Continue to \_\_\_\_\_ and grow.**  
*Three ways: 1) Lecture/Classroom/Reading, 2) Apprenticeship, 3) Immersion*
- **Root your faith primarily in what is true about \_\_\_\_\_, not in feelings or people.**  
*"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." -Colossians 1:28*
- **Be honest about your \_\_\_\_\_.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **I was baptized as an infant. Do I need to be baptized again?**

There are many faith traditions that practice the baptism of infants. In the Catholic tradition it is believed that the act of baptism removes the stain of original sin. In some Reformed Protestant traditions baptism is seen as a sign that a child is a member of God's covenant community, not that the child has necessarily professed faith. At Bridgeway we believe the biblical model of baptism is that it is for believers, and thus baptism following a profession of faith is required for membership.
- **I have been baptized as a believer, but it was not by immersion. Do I need to be baptized again?**

At Bridgeway we believe the biblical model of baptism is that it is done by immersion, so that is what we practice here. We would encourage you to be baptized by immersion, but if you have been baptized by sprinkling as a believer and do not wish to be baptized by immersion, that is ok.
- **I have been baptized by immersion, but then I walked away from my faith. Should I be baptized again as a sign of my re-commitment?**

We are overjoyed that you've returned to walking with the Lord, and we want to do everything we can to support you in that journey. However, it is not necessary for you to be baptized again. But if you would like to be baptized again as a sign of your renewed commitment to the Lord, that is totally fine! Your call.
- **Does baptism make me a Christian?**

No. Baptism doesn't *make* you a Christian—it is a sign that you *are* a Christian. A helpful analogy is to think of baptism like a wedding ring. A wedding ring does not make you married, but rather it is a sign that you are married. The ring means nothing without the commitment, but it is a powerful symbol when accompanied by a commitment. Jesus commanded that His followers be baptized (Matt. 28:18-19), but it is not what saves you. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone (Eph. 2:8), and baptism is the way we publicly acknowledge our commitment to Christ.
- **I'm not sure I'm ready to be baptized. What should I do?**

Baptism is a big step, and it's something to take seriously. That being said, it's important to remember that we don't need to "qualify" for baptism by doing good works. If you're struggling with whether or not to get baptized, it may be helpful to review the "How do I know if I'm ready to be baptized?" portion of this document. The bottom line is: if Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, you can be baptized!