



# baptism

an expression of

## faith



windsor park  
baptist church



## what is baptism?

In the Bible every person who came into a relationship with Jesus was baptised as an expression of that relationship, and so we believe that baptism as a believer is an important part of a faith journey. While baptism doesn't make you a Christian, it's a vital expression of our faith and commitment to following Jesus.

## what's the significance of baptism?

In Romans 6: 1-11, Paul (an influential early Christian) explains how baptism identified a Christian with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Going underwater signifies Jesus' death and burial, and coming out of the water signifies His resurrection. Baptism is a public statement of faith and obedience that symbolises your commitment to place Jesus in the centre of your life; it can be described as an outward symbol of an inward commitment.

## why be baptised?

By being baptised we're following Jesus' example (Matthew 3: 16) and demonstrating our faith in Jesus — if it was good for Jesus, it's good for us! One of the many examples of baptism in the Bible is found in Acts 18:8, *'Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptised.'*

## why be baptised by immersion?

Baptism by immersion is the most common way people are baptised because immersion is the best way to symbolically illustrate a burial and resurrection. Furthermore, this was the way that Jesus was baptised, and all baptisms in the Bible were by water immersion (e.g. Acts 8:38-39); *baptise* literally means 'to dip or immerse under water.'

## what about infant baptism?

In the Bible Jesus loved kids, He prayed for them, and He taught us to love and welcome them. But He didn't baptise kids or tell anyone else to baptise them. Parents often baptise their kids hoping that one day they will become followers of Jesus, and if you were baptised in this way then your baptism as an adult can be viewed as a fulfilment of this hope.

## is baptism necessary to become a member of Windsor Park?

The Constitution of Windsor Park Baptist Church allows the Elders to use wisdom and discretion in accepting people into membership who have not been baptised as believers by immersion, but who have been baptised in some other way (perhaps as infants). We address this on a case-by-case basis, respecting the theologies of other Christian traditions while still maintaining a strong 'Baptist' understanding of baptism.

## i'm ready to be baptised. what's my next step?

Contact one of the Pastors or the Windsor Park Office and we'll sort out the next steps. We'll work with you to decide where and when your baptism occurs. We like to let people know when baptisms are happening (so the community of faith can celebrate with you), and you can be baptised in church, at the beach, in a pool, in a river, or wherever there is sufficient water to get you under and back up again!

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