

Baptism

Going Public With Your Faith

Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)

Q: Who should be baptized?

A: Everyone who has experienced salvation in Jesus Christ.

We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only means by which sin is forgiven. Therefore, salvation only occurs when a person places his or her faith in Jesus as their Savior.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, then you are ready to be baptized. Jesus called this being born again. You are acknowledging Jesus Christ in your life by symbolically sharing in His death and resurrection, illustrated by going under the water (dead to your old life) then rising again to walk in a new way of life.

Romans 10:9-10, 13 (NIV)

"If you declare with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord.' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved... for 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

In the book of Acts, we see new converts being baptized as a declaration of their new found faith.

Q: What is the purpose of baptism?

A: Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment to Jesus.

Jesus instructed us to be baptized; baptism is an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates your submission before God. We immerse at Pathways Church because we believe Scripture shows that Jesus modeled that for us as the way to publicly acknowledge our faith in Him.

Romans 6:3-5 (NASB)

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection."

Q: Is baptism only for brand new believers?

A: No, it is not! Everyone who has come into a relationship with Jesus, regardless of how long ago, should experience baptism.

Luke 3:21-22 (NIV)

"When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'"

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Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)

Q: Is baptism a requirement for entrance into heaven?

A: No, we do not believe that anyone is "saved" through baptism, nor is baptism a part of being "saved." We are made "right" with God through Jesus alone. Baptism is a public affirmation of being made right with God.

Q: If baptism is not necessary for salvation, is it really necessary?

A: Yes. Jesus Himself was baptized signifying the beginning of His ministry. He told His disciples to be baptized.

Paul speaks of baptism as an important demonstration of a person's life being in Jesus.

Romans 6:1-4 (NIV)

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

"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."

Q: What about infant baptism?

A: Some denominations choose to practice infant baptism. We understand scripture to teach that only professing believers should be baptized. Baptism does not make you a believer; rather, it is a proclamation of your belief in Christ.