



BAPTISM

According to the Bible

Baptism is considered an ordinance or commandment due to Jesus' commission in Matthew 28:19 where He tells us, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

Baptism is an important step of Obedience, Identification, and Commitment following a believer's new birth. Through baptism the believer is not only obeying Christ's command, but he/she is identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When the believer is put under the water in baptism it represents the death and burial of their old life. Coming up out of the water is a beautiful symbol of resurrection and walking in newness of life. In Romans 6:3-4 we read, *"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."* Also see Col. 2:11-12.

The believer is publicly declaring their determination to continue in Christ, forgetting those things which are behind and pressing on to victory in Jesus! This public declaration is important, and for converts in the first century was a true test of the sincerity of their conversion since it could have resulted in loss of jobs, homes, and disownment by their family. In 20th century America this is seldom a problem. This is not true in other countries today. Many suffer great earthly loss for their public declaration of their faith – even the loss of life in some instances.

The Greek word "baptizo" literally means "to dip", "to wash" or "to immerse." We see in Matt. 3:16 and Acts 8:38-39 that baptism by immersion was practiced in the first century; and it is our practice at Legacy Church today.



Baptism always follows spiritual birth - it never precedes it. It is for the saved – those who have believed in and confessed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9,10).

There is no biblical basis for the baptism of infants. However, dedicating children to the Lord is a beautiful and biblical practice, and believing parents at Legacy are encouraged to do this.

We also do not believe that baptism is required for salvation, but it is performed in gratitude for salvation already given. In Acts 10:34-48, we see the first gentile believers receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit before being baptized. This would be impossible if they could only be saved through water baptism. Also Paul's statement in I Cor. 1:17, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel...", does not depreciate baptism, but Paul would never have made such a statement if baptism was essential for salvation.

There is no reason to put it off. (Acts 8:36-38). A refusal to be baptized could indicate a misunderstanding of Jesus' command, fear of what unbelievers would think, or the fact that a person's faith is insincere or false.

No special membership classes are required for a believer to be baptized. (Acts 2:37-48, 41; 18:8; & 16:30-33.) Nonetheless, we should be sure that one desiring baptism understands the simple, basic truths behind it (Acts 19:1-6). We give believers this necessary information that they may be able to thoroughly appreciate and enjoy their baptism.

Any believer desiring to be baptized needs only to notify a church leader or call the church office at (928) 305-0027. Baptisms are generally held quarterly. If you have further questions, or would like to be baptized, let us know today!