

After you make a commitment to trust Jesus, you enter into a life-long relationship with God as a Christian. A Christian (Christ's-one) then attempts to learn more about:

- God,
- His character
- His desires for your life and lifestyle

## I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

### 1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY CHRIST .

*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9*

### 2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT.

*"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20*

### 3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A BELIEVER .

*"... many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized" Act 18:8*

*"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." 1 John 2:3*

## II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

### 1. IT ILLUSTRATES JESUS' BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

*"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again."  
1 Cor. 15:3-4*

*"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ,  
and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Col. 2:12*

### 2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

*"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared  
His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
... so also we may live a new life." Rom. 6:4*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it demonstrates that you already believe. It's important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. You are "saved" only by your faith in Jesus.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ...  
it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."  
Ephesians 2:8-9*

Baptism is like a wedding ring -- it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

**BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD SIGN OF AN INWARD COMMITMENT.**

### III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

#### XII. Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

### IV. SYMBOLISM OF IMMERSION

#### 1) JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

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

#### 2) IMMERSION SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

*"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Cor. 5:17*

### V. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

#### 1) EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED IN CHRIST.

*"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized ..."*  
*Acts 2:41*

*"Simon himself believed and was baptized ..."* Acts 8:13

*"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12*

## VI. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

### 1. AS SOON AS YOU HAVE **BELIEVED!**

*"Those who believe ... were baptized ... that day!" Acts 2:41*

*"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect" you'll never be ready.

**Contact the church office to sign up for our next baptism service.**

**RSVP today with Wilda. 342-9012 or [galesnaz@comcast.net](mailto:galesnaz@comcast.net)**