

# Baptism at The Church at Rancho Bernardo

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is baptism?

Baptism is an outward act of an inward decision. Baptism does not save...it "reflects" that I am forgiven, that I have put my faith and trust in Jesus alone for my salvation.

### What does Baptism signify?

Baptism signifies a confession of complete faith in Christ. It is a symbol of your union with Jesus Christ and a realization that the Holy Spirit has entered and sealed you. It symbolizes death to sin and a new life in righteousness. 1 Peter 3:21, Romans 6:1-11.

### Why be baptized?

There are many reasons to be baptized. To follow are some of the most important!

- 1) Follows Jesus' example: John 3:13-17 - *One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized.*
- 2) Act of obedience: Acts 2:38 - *Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.*
- 3) Identifies you with a local body of believers: Acts 2:41 - *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church - about three thousand in all.*

### What if I was baptized as an infant?

Scripture says parents brought children to Jesus - not for baptism, but to pray for them. Infant baptism was not because of your decision, it was your parents! This is a time for you to declare your own personal decision to follow Christ! We also celebrate child dedication - a commitment by parents to Follow Jesus' example. For more information, go to our website and click on About Us to review our Statement on Child Dedication.

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

Believers are those who have realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his or her salvation. If you have come to this point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized.

### When should I be baptized?

The Bible is clear—belief and baptism were always together. Thus, "when we believe" is the right time to be baptized. If you "believed" some time back and were not baptized, then this should become a priority for you to fulfill what God asks you do in the Bible.

### Does a person's age make a difference?

At The Church at Rancho Bernardo, we baptize youth beginning with students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If we look in the Bible we see that children are never seen to "accept Christ". It is also interesting that God never tells us what to do to keep a child safe. Did He just forget this important point, letting many children go to Hell and suffer eternally? No. A child is safe in the arms of God until they can understand how to be saved by accepting Jesus as their savior. (See 2 Samuel chapter 12, verses 22 and 23 along with Matthew chapter 18, verse 10.) Thus, only adults and older children (who can understand separation from God because of sin and so forth) are at the age when acceptance of Christ is possible.

**How do we baptize?**

Baptize is derived from the original Greek word of the New Testament which literally meant to immerse in water. You will meet the pastor in the middle of the pool and he/she will ask you a question regarding your decision to accept Christ. After you answer, the pastor will immerse you one time backwards into the water. This is a representation of dying to oneself and being raised anew in Christ. Afterwards, you will be directed out of the water.

**What do I wear?**

Men are advised to wear a dark shirt, shorts, and slip off shoes.

Women are advised to wear clothing made of material that retains minimum amounts of water. We encourage you to wear a one piece bathing suit under your dark t-shirt and shorts.

Please wear these clothes to the service and bring a towel and change of clothing for afterward.

**What do I need to bring to Baptism?**

Change of clothes, towel.

**What will happen next?**

There is no prep program orientation but follow-up phone from Pastor Ken. Once testimony is submitted, Pastor Ken will call to go over any questions.