

DURBANVILLE BAPTIST BAPTISM

Baptism - An Introductory Word

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review the information on these pages. If you have any questions, please feel free to call one of the pastors at the Church office (021 976-1308). We are glad to help.

I. Why Should I Be Baptized?

A. 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)

B. 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 then teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you'"(Matthew 28:19-20).

C. It demonstrates that I really am a Believer.

"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?

A. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins. . . He was buried... .and He rose again" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). "For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ". (Colossians 2:12)

B. It illustrates our unity with God (The Father, Son & Holy Spirit) and His Church (Matthew 28:19, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3.)

C. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" (II Corinthians 5:17). "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 that we may live a new life!" (Romans 6:4).

D. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian

Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water" (Matthew 3:16)

B. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(for example) "...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... (Acts 8:38-39).

C. The word "baptize" means "to dip under water."

C. It symbolized burial and resurrection (see Romans 6:1-11).

IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ. A Believer is someone who has realized that their sin 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 their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).

V. What About Children?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the candidate did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At Durbanville Baptist, we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them in the Christian faith.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This custom began about three hundred years after the Bible was completed. This is a time when the parent pledges their commitment to raise their child according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not Christian baptism. Durbanville Baptist offers a similar opportunity for parents through its dedication services.

As the purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ, it is strongly recommended that every Christian person be baptized as a believer, even though many of us were confirmed as teenagers.

VI. What About Infant Baptism?

In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So it seems more biblical to wait until after a personal decision to trust Christ. Only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. If you have not experienced believer's baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of

baptism is yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as a believer in Christ.

VII. When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed.

"Those who believed 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).

VIII. Does This Mean It Has To Be Immediately?

No, what the Bible is trying to teach is that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are "good" enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

IX. When Are DBC's Baptismal Services?

Baptismal services are currently held when there are one or more people requesting to be baptized. This may change in the future but for now, that is when we have them.

X. What Do I Wear?

Dress in clothes you don't mind getting wet! Women should wear thick shirts such as a sweatshirt, and feel free to wear either shorts or jeans. There is a changing room for both men and women at the pool. You will also want to bring a towel, though some should be available at the pool.

Remember to bring a change of clothes to wear home. Arrive about 20 minutes before the service is scheduled to begin in order to receive some last-minute orientation.

XI. How Do I Register?

To register for our next baptism service, simply call the Church office and speak to one of the pastors. The first and most important step towards Baptism is to make sure of your own personal salvation.

If you would like to know more about how to become a follower of Jesus Christ please contact one of the pastors at the office (021 976-1308) or email them:

Basil: revbas@durbanvillebaptist.co.za

Brett: brett@durbanvillebaptist.co.za