

**WHAT I THINK ABOUT BAPTISM**

*Revised 4-29-09*

**Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Mark your answer with an A for agree or D for disagree.**

- 1 \_\_\_\_      There is only one kind of baptism in the Bible.
- 2 \_\_\_\_      An important reason why a person should be baptized is in order that he or she might be saved.
- 3 \_\_\_\_      It is wrong to get baptized just because your parents want you to.
- 4 \_\_\_\_      Baptism is private thing between you and the Lord. It need not be witnessed by others publicly.
- 5 \_\_\_\_      One good reason for being baptized is the fact that Christ commanded it.
- 6 \_\_\_\_      Spirit baptism and John's baptism are the same thing.
- 7 \_\_\_\_      Jesus was baptized to show he repented for his sins.
- 8 \_\_\_\_      Believer's baptism is the same thing as infant baptism.
- 9 \_\_\_\_      There are examples in the Bible of infants being baptized.
- 10 \_\_\_\_      Pouring water over someone's head is one way some churches baptize people.
- 11 \_\_\_\_      The word "baptism" literally means "to immerse" or "to dip".
- 12 \_\_\_\_      One should not be baptized until he/she is old enough to understand what the Bible says about baptism.
- 13 \_\_\_\_      It is more important to be baptized than to fully understand why you are baptized.
- 14 \_\_\_\_      Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality.
- 15 \_\_\_\_      Baptism is a picture of washing.
- 16 \_\_\_\_      Baptism is a picture of swimming.
- 17 \_\_\_\_      Baptism shows others you desire to be active in the church body.
- 18 \_\_\_\_      Baptism pictures the fact that you have died with Jesus and been raised to new life with Him.
- 19 \_\_\_\_      Baptism shows that you can no longer sin.
- 20 \_\_\_\_      Baptism shows others you understand the spiritual change that has taken place in your life now that you believe in Jesus.
- 21 \_\_\_\_      I am ready to be baptized.
- 22 \_\_\_\_      I want to be baptized.

**Lesson 1**  
**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM**

**I. THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF BAPTISM:**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:1-8)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 3:13-17)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:35-38; 10:47-48)

**II. THERE ARE FOUR REASONS WHY A BELIEVER SHOULD BE BAPTIZED:**

- A. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it (Matthew 28:19).
- B. The early church always \_\_\_\_\_ it (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).
- C. You demonstrate you \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:26-28, 33).
- D. You show \_\_\_\_\_ you believe in and obey Jesus (Acts 19:4-5).

**III. THERE ARE FOUR REASONS FOR BAPTISM THAT ARE WRONG:**

- A. My \_\_\_\_\_ want me to do it.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ is important to me.
- C. It will \_\_\_\_\_ me.
- D. It will make me a \_\_\_\_\_.

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**THE BOTTOM LINE**

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You will not appreciate the importance of baptism until you first appreciate the importance of your salvation—your belief in Jesus Christ. Before the next lesson, answer the questions below. Answer them in your own words.

1. What does Jesus tell us to do in Matthew 10:32?
2. What two things are we asked to do in Romans 10:9-10?
3. What would you tell someone who asked you, “Tell me how you became a Christian and why is it important to be one?”

**Answers to Lesson 1**  
**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM**

**I. THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF BAPTISM:**

- A. John's Baptism (Mark 1:1-8)
- B. Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)
- C. Spirit's Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- D. Water Baptism (Acts 8:35-38; 10:47-48)

**II. THERE ARE FOUR REASONS WHY A BELIEVER SHOULD BE BAPTIZED:**

- A. Christ commanded it (Matthew 28:19)
- B. The early church always practiced it (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13)
- C. You demonstrate you obey the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:26-28, 33).
- D. You show others you believe in and obey Jesus (Acts 19:4-5).

**III. THERE ARE FOUR REASONS FOR BAPTISM THAT ARE WRONG:**

- A. My parents want me to do it.
- B. The ceremony is important to me.
- C. It will save me.
- D. It will make me a better person.

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**THE BOTTOM LINE**

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1. What does Jesus tell us to do in Matthew 10:32?
2. What two things are we asked to do in Romans 10:9-10?
3. What would you tell someone who asked you, "Tell me how you became a Christian and why is it important to be one?"

**Lesson 2**  
**THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM**

**I. WATER BAPTISM *PICTURES* TWO IMPORTANT FACTS:**

**A. A very special friendship with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-11).**

1. We identify with His \_\_\_\_\_ (6:3)
  - a) Our sins have been \_\_\_\_\_ (6:4,6)
  - b.) Our sins no longer \_\_\_\_\_ us (6:6, 7,9)
2. We live because of His \_\_\_\_\_ (6:4-5)
  - a) We now live \_\_\_\_\_ (6:4)
  - b) We now live \_\_\_\_\_ (6:5, 8)
  - c) We now live \_\_\_\_\_ (6:10-11)

**B. A very special *function* of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)**

1. He washed us in order that we might be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He washed us in order that we might be \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. WATER BAPTISM *SHOWS* OTHERS YOUR DESIRE TO DO TWO THINGS:**

**A. Contribute to the *family* of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-18, 25, 27).**

1. We identify with His body: \_\_\_\_\_ of it (12:12).
2. We have an important \_\_\_\_\_ to play (12:14, 27).
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of His body (12:25).

**B. Live a life of *personal* holiness (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)**

1. We identify with Our body: \_\_\_\_\_ (6:19)
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ immorality (6:18)
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ God (6:20)

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**THE BOTTOM LINE**

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By participating in water baptism, you show others you understand the spiritual change that has taken place in your life. You also show you want others to know that you want to follow Jesus and be active in his church body.

**Answers to Lesson 2**  
**THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM**

**I. WATER BAPTISM *PICTURES* TWO IMPORTANT FACTS:**

**A. A very special friendship with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-11).**

1. We identify with His death (6:3)
  - b) Our sins have been crucified 6:4,6)
  - c.) Our sins no longer control us (6:6, 7,9)
2. We live because of His resurrection (6:4-5)
  - d) We now live a new life (6:4)
  - e) We now live with Jesus (6:5, 8)
  - f) We now live for God (6:10-11)

**B. A very special *function* of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)**

1. He washed us in order that we might be reborn.
2. He washed us in order that we might be renewed.

**II. WATER BAPTISM *SHOWS* OTHERS YOUR DESIRE TO DO TWO THINGS:**

**C. Contribute to the *family* of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-18, 25, 27).**

1. We identify with His body: a part of it (12:12).
2. We have an important part to play (12:14, 27).
3. We care for the rest of His body (12:25).

**D. Live a life of personal holiness (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)**

1. We identify with Our body: God's temple (6:19)
2. We flee immorality (6:18)
3. We glorify God (6:20)

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**THE BOTTOM LINE**

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By participating in water baptism, you show others you understand the spiritual change that has taken place in your life. You also show you want others to know that you want to follow Jesus and be active in his church body.

**Lesson 3**  
**TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT WATER BAPTISM**

**I. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

**A. Some believe babies should be baptized**

1. Whole families were baptized, which may have included their infants and young children (Acts 16:33; 1 Corinthians 1:16)
2. If young children are to be brought to Jesus, they should also be baptized like adults who believe in Jesus (Matthew 19:14; 28:19)

**B. We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ should be baptized**

1. There is no clear example in the Bible of an infant or young child being baptized.
2. All examples of water baptism in the Bible show belief in Jesus before being baptized (Acts 8:12; 10:43-48).
3. All commands to be baptized in the Bible are preceded by an invitation to believe in Jesus (Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-33)

**II. How should you be baptized?**

**A. Some believe that you should be \_\_\_\_\_ with a little bit of water.**

- Sprinkling with water is a picture in the Bible of forgiveness and cleansing from sin (Ezekiel 36:25-28; Numbers 8:5-7; Hebrews 10:22)

**B. Others believe that water should be \_\_\_\_\_ over your head.**

- Pouring pictures the gift of the Holy Spirit being given to believers (Acts 2:32-33, 38; Titus 3:5-6)

**C. We believe that you should be \_\_\_\_\_ under water.**

- The word *baptism* literally means to “dip” or “immerse”
- Examples of baptisms show they took place where there was a lot of water and people went into the water and came out of it (John 3:22-23; Mark 1:4-5, 9-10; Acts 8:36-39)
- Immersion best illustrates the *picture* that we have died with Christ and now are alive with him (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12)

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**THE BOTTOM LINE**

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If you have trusted in Jesus alone and are now a Christian, then you should understand why and how you should be baptized.

**Answers to Lesson 3**  
**TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT WATER BAPTISM**

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**A. Some believe babies should be baptized**

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2. If young children are to be brought to Jesus, they should also be baptized like adults who believe in Jesus (Matthew 19:14; 28:19)

**B. We believe that only believers should be baptized**

1. There is no clear example in the Bible of an infant or young child being baptized.
2. All examples of water baptism in the Bible show belief in Jesus before being baptized (Acts 8:12; 10:43-48).
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**A. Some believe that you should be sprinkled with a little bit of water.**

- Sprinkling with water is a picture in the Bible of forgiveness and cleansing from sin (Ezekiel 36:25-28; Numbers 8:5-7; Hebrews 10:22)

**B. Others believe that water should be poured over your head.**

- Pouring pictures the gift of the Holy Spirit being given to believers (Acts 2:32-33, 38; Titus 3:5-6)

**C. We believe that you should be immersed under water.**

- The word *baptism* literally means to “dip” or “immerse”
- Examples of baptisms show they took place where there was a lot of water and people went into the water and came out of it (John 3:22-23; Mark 1:4-5, 9-10; Acts 8:36-39)
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## PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

Baptism, it is a time of special meaning to each individual being baptized as well as for the Oakwood Church Family or Community Group and special guests who share this time of joy. We sincerely desire to help make this baptismal service a special, memorable spiritual experience. Sometimes tenseness and fear of the unknown can detract from this time of unique response to the Lord and so we share these things with you in an attempt to help you know exactly what we will be doing as well as some helpful ideas regarding your baptism.

### WHERE DO WE CONDUCT BAPTISMS?

In short, like John the Baptist (Acts 3:23) we conduct baptisms wherever there is plenty of water to do so! That includes the ocean, a lake, a swimming pool, and in the winter, even a hot tub!

### HOW DO I SCHEDULE A BAPTISMAL?

You may contact the Oakwood office and indicate your interest at [office@oakwood.com](mailto:office@oakwood.com) or 813/969-2303. Or you may directly ask an elder, pastor, or Community Group Leader. They in turn will request you to read this information, and review with you how a person obtains eternal life, and the meaning of baptism. They will then make arrangements with you for scheduling the joyful ceremony of baptism.

### WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

Oakwood allows believing parents to determine if their child is a genuine believer in Jesus and is old enough to grasp the truths of the gospel and the basic meaning of baptism. If you are unsure how to do this, a pastor, elder, or Community Group Leader will be delighted to assist you. We have materials to teach baptism at three levels: children (ages 7-10), youth (ages 11-16), and adult.

Each child varies in spiritual and developmental maturity, but we encourage parents to guide their children to wait to be baptized until they are at least seven years old; it is common and healthy for some to wait until they are older. We want to encourage young children to grow in faith, yet we don't want to rush them into it until they are able to grasp its meaning for them and they are sure it is their faith and not merely the faith of their parents who desire this for them.

### DRESS FOR THE BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Women: Wear shorts or slacks along with a dark top and normal undergarments. In the case of the baptismal service being held in conjunction with a beach or pool gathering, a swimsuit with cover-up would be appropriate.

Men: Wear shorts or a conservative swim suit and T-shirt.

Children (both boys & girls): You may wear what the adults wear, or a swim suit and a shirt or T-shirt.

### WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

1. A complete change of clothing (if needed)
2. A comb, and a hair dryer (if needed)
3. A towel

### PREPARATION TO MAKE

1. Consider being prepared to share a brief testimony of your trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin. If this is something that would make you exceptionally uncomfortable you are not required to do this (this is particularly true for children). If you wish, the one baptizing you can briefly share on your behalf. It is, however, suggested for three reasons: 1) It will be an encouragement to



those who observe, 2) It can be a means of strengthening your faith, 3) The baptism might be more meaningful to you.

2. Select a verse or short passage of Scripture which was instrumental in your coming to Christ, or which is especially meaningful to you now as you anticipate being baptized, or which you have chosen as a life verse, etc. Please tell the one baptizing you what it is in advance of the day of baptism and why.
3. Prayerfully consider who to especially invite to your baptism such as unsaved friends or relatives, and those to whom your baptism would be especially meaningful.
4. Pray that your baptism will glorify God and that it will be a meaningful event for you and the congregation.

### **BAPTISMAL QUESTION** (while in water, prior to immersion)

#### Question to adults:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin and acknowledge Him as the Lord and Master of your life? **(YES)**

#### Question to children:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin? **(YES)**

Do you want to try to live a life that is pleasing to Jesus? **(YES)**

#### Response of person performing the baptism:

Based upon the confession of your faith, and in loving obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You are then immersed with the assistance of the baptizer and brought back up out of the water. This concludes your baptism.

### **WHO MAY BAPTISE?**

Believer's baptism is one of the two ordinances commanded by Christ; the other one is The Lord's Supper. They are to be administered only by His Church. His universal church is embodied in local congregations, including Oakwood. We do not believe it is appropriate for individual believers to officiate either of these ordinances apart from the local church, nor apart from the participation or authorization of the local church's spiritually designated pastors or elders or those whom they authorize to do so as a ministry of the local church.

Oakwood's pastors and elder's often officiate and baptize. They also authorize others to officiate (lead) a baptismal ceremony, such as Community Group Leaders; when they do so, they are acting only as a part of the ministry of Oakwood and under Oakwood's pastors/elders oversight and authorization. Please ask for this authorization before proceeding. In turn, properly authorized leaders of a baptism ceremony may grant the joyful privilege to a believing parent, or to the person who was instrumental in leading that person to faith, to actually assist in immersing the one being baptized.