



ABOUT BAPTISM

At Carmel we believe that there are two ordinances that should be observed in the church - baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both were instituted by Jesus in the Gospels, celebrated by the early church as recorded in Acts, and explained more fully in the Epistles.

We often receive questions about baptism, so below are our answers to questions about who we baptize and why we baptize by immersion.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

- "Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." --I 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

It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" --2 Corinthians 5:17
- "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." --Romans 6:4
- Baptism does not make someone a believer - it shows that one already believes. Baptism is not required for salvation. Only one's repentance and faith in Christ is. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.
- "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 God's first act of blessing for the believer. It asks those who witness this act of obedience to stand up and take note of this life.

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

- Every baptism recorded in the Bible was by immersion.
 - "As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." --Matthew 3:16
 - "...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
- The word 'baptize' means "To dip under water." Likewise, the Greek work 'baptizo' means "To immerse or dip under water."
- Baptism by immersion best symbolizes a burial and resurrection. Romans 6:3-4: "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."

The founders of various denominations speak about baptism by immersion:

- Martin Luther: "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies." Luther's Works, 1551 edition, Vol. 2, p.76
- John Calvin: ". . . it is evident that the term baptize means to immerse, and that this was the form used by the

primitive church.” Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book IV, Chapter XV, Paragraph 19

- John Wesley: “I believe (myself) it is a duty to observe, so far as I can . . . to baptize by immersion.” Moore, Life of Wesley, Vol. 1, p. 425
- Ulrich Zwingli: “‘Into his death.’ When ye were immersed into the water of baptism, ye were ingrafted into the death of Christ; that it, the immersion of your body into water was a sign, that ye ought to be ingrafted into Christ and his death, that as Christ died and was buried, ye also may be dead to the flesh and the old man, that is, to yourselves.” Annotations on Romans 6:3

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has received Christ as Savior and Lord.

- "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." --Acts 2:41
- "Simon himself believed and was baptized..." --Acts 8:13
- "But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." --Acts 8:12
- Likewise, we believe that the biblical example is belief followed by baptism. Therefore, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized as a believer and in the way Jesus demonstrated, even though some may have been baptized as an infant and/or "confirmed" as children.

What About Infant Baptism?

- At Carmel, we wait until our children are old enough to personally trust Christ and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.
- Some churches baptize children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. We do not doubt the spiritual testimony of anyone who has been baptized as an infant or baptized in a way other than immersion. However, we believe that baptism by immersion was original method of the church and its the method that is most appropriate today.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

We will be glad to talk to you about this important decision. Please indicate your desire to speak to a pastor on the request form or go by the NextStep Reception on Sunday to talk with a Pastor or a NextStep Coach about your questions.

HOW DO I SCHEDULE MY BAPTISM?

We typically celebrate the ordinance of baptism on the first Sunday of each month. If you are a candidate for baptism and have spoken with a Pastor or NextStep Coach, please provide all of the requested information on the online registration form. You will receive an email to confirm the date of your baptism and to explain details like what to wear and where to meet. Please note that baptisms are limited as to the number of participants in each service, so please let us know as soon as possible about your desired date for baptism.

Schedule your baptism date here: Go to carmelbaptist.org. Click on Discover Carmel and Your Next Step. Complete the Baptism Registration Form

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Parents of elementary aged children who wish to have their child baptized are required to attend the First Step class with their child. First Step is a four week class on Sunday mornings where parents and their child can explore and learn together what it means to become a Christian by looking at God’s big story, faith, baptism and the Lord’s Supper. First Step is offered in January, February, May, October and November on Sunday mornings. To register, contact the CarmelKidz Ministry at janicem@carmelbaptist.org

WHAT IF I HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS?

Please let us know your need on the request form or request to speak to a pastor if you have special circumstances.