



Baptism Guide For Parents

At Door Creek Church we have at least three baptism services throughout the year. As families, you may be asking the questions, “what is baptism?” and “who should be baptized?” In a simple description, baptism is a symbolic act in which we identify ourselves as people who follow or belong to Christ. It represents that work of Christ on our behalf. How so? When Christ died on the cross, he died bearing the guilt and punishment of the sins of all people. He was the perfect sacrifice that was sufficient to satisfy God’s wrath and hatred for sin. However, he did not stay dead, rather he was raised from the dead conquering death and is still alive today. What that means for us is that since he was able to conquer death for himself, we can also have hope in his promise to raise us to a new and eternal life as well.

Water baptism is a symbolic act by which we through the act of being dunked, or going under, are identifying with the death of Christ showing that we are dying to our old self, or our sinful self. Then, being raised up out of the water, represents that after a death to sin, we are raised with Christ into a new and living way, and into an eternal life with him. Baptism is not an act of salvation or an act that causes us to receive forgiveness and be made right with God, but rather it is an expression of that decision we have already made to find forgiveness in him and the choice to live life for him and with him.

Baptism is not necessary for salvation, however it is taught as an expectation for his followers so it becomes an issue of obedience. So in baptism, we identify ourselves as being with Christ, and we demonstrate our submission to Christ and his teachings. If you or your child has made the decision to trust in the person and work of Christ to provide forgiveness of sins and make you right with God, then baptism would be a great next step for you to make that statement public before God, family and friends.

At Door Creek Church, we recommend baptism for children and adults ages 9 and older. This recommendation comes because we want to be certain that those being baptized are acting of their own free will and out of their own understanding of their faith in Christ. Also, there needs to be evidence of the connection between the decision to follow Christ and the behavior that flows from that.

For further reading:

Matthew 28:18-20

Romans 6:1-11

Acts 8:26-38

Colossians 2:11-12