

## Water Baptism<sup>1</sup>

We respond to the gospel with repentance and faith in the finished work of Christ. Having been converted, believers are also to respond by obeying the command to be baptized.

Baptism is an obedient response of someone saved by grace. In baptism, we identify with the Lord who has saved us. Baptism cannot contribute to or bring about salvation. Baptism doesn't save us – Jesus saves us through faith.

*Acts 8:12 '... when they believed ...they were baptized, both men and women.'*

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward work which has already taken place. Therefore, only those who have believed the gospel and repented from their sins should be baptized. For this reason, we do not baptize infants.

Water baptism is a sign and symbol of the believer's union with the Lord in his death, burial and resurrection.

*Rom. 6:4 "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."*

We practice baptism by immersion, which vividly illustrates the believer's identification with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism is a landmark moment in a believer's life, publically marking one's identification with Christ and entrance into his body, the church. It is therefore our wonderful privilege as a church to celebrate these times together. We set aside specific times for the baptism of new believers (or those who haven't yet been baptized), enabling us to rejoice together and to welcome new believers into the life of the church.

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from *Starting Point, Our Journey Together*, by Covenant Life Church