

## FAQ

### WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

It is often asked if certain knowledge should be learned or if a person's life style needs to reflect certain characteristics before being baptized. As we see in both Matthew 28:18-20 and in Acts 8:25-39 that baptism is the first, and sometimes awkward, step in obedience to Christ. When a person believes that Jesus is both Lord and Savior in their lives and is ready to accept Jesus' teachings and mission, then it is time to be baptized.

### WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

There are no examples in Scripture of infant baptism nor a command to do so. What we do see is people consciously believing Jesus is both Lord and Savior and then being baptized. Creekside has a tradition of, a few times a year, having parents (willingly) bring their newborn children before the congregation and making the public declaration that they are dedicated to raising their child(ren) in a Christian household (following Christ). This is different than baptism, so when a child has reached an age where they confidently believe Jesus is both their Lord and Savior, that it is time to be baptized.

### DO I EVER NEED TO BE RE-BAPTIZED?

Although we see no examples or precedent for re-baptism in Scripture, there are some things to consider. Because of the various factors involved, we encourage having a discussion with one of the staff or Elders to determine the best next step.

# BAPTISM

What is baptism  
and why do we  
still practice it  
today?



## But why baptism?

For that we will look at five passages in the Bible to give us a clearer understanding:

### Read Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist as it says in v15 *"to fulfill all righteousness."* Righteousness means to do right by, so in this instance we see that Jesus is baptized to do right by God.

### Read Romans 6:1-5

Paul reminds us that when we are baptized we symbolize being dead and buried just like Christ and then just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too can rise out of the water, resurrected with a new life in Him.

### Read Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus' final words to his disciples were to go make more disciples by first baptizing them and then teaching them to obey all that He had commanded. By us following these directions, we are indeed fulfilling a command Jesus left for His followers to become a disciple.

### Read Acts 2:36-41

Peter at Pentecost gets to talk to the crowd that called for Jesus' death, saw Him crucified, and then many saw or heard of Him raising from the dead. As they come to grips with the fact that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah, they ask Peter what to do. Peter tells them to *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ."* Then Peter tells them why: for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit! What amazing mercy and grace from God. We not only have our sin debt paid in full, but we also receive a priceless gift.

Biblically, the Greek word baptizo is where we get the word baptism from. It's important to understand not only the meaning of the word but how the authors of the New Testament came about choosing baptizo to represent what was happening in the early church.

Historically, in Jewish culture, people would be ritually cleansed of sins and diseases. One example of this is found in 2 Kings 5 with the story of Naaman being healed of leprosy. Naaman was instructed by Elisha to wash in the Jordan River seven times. Ancient Jewish culture directed that there were various types of water one could be cleansed in and each was ranked from good to best. In fact, they were instructed that some diseases could only be healed by a certain "level" of water. Naaman was instructed to wash in the Jordan and since rivers and lakes were considered "living water," it was the most superior form of water to be cleansed in at the time. When someone undertook the process of being cleansed, they submerged themselves in the water washing from head to toe.

Fast forward to the time of the New Testament, we see that the authors chose to describe this act with the word baptizo which is also found outside Scriptures in ancient recipes for pickles! That's right, the word baptizo (baptism) is how you turn a cucumber into a pickle. The word literally means "to immerse; plunge."

What we see described as baptism in the New Testament church is the act of a person being submerged fully into a body of water. As Creekside likes to do Bible things in Bible ways, we still practice baptism in the same way today.

