

Baptism

at Breakaway Church

Let's get started!

We are so happy you are here, and can't wait to answer
any questions you have about baptism.

We'll explore the following:

- Why baptism?
- What is the gospel?
- What is baptism?
- How should a person be baptized?
- Preparing your testimony

What is Baptism?

Baptism serves as **a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection** that testifies to a new life in Christ (Col. 2:12, Rom. 6:4).

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a practice established in the New Testament by Jesus Christ. For the person being baptized, **it is a sign of his or her union with Christ in his death and resurrection**, of being joined to him, of having sins forgiven, and of being dedicated to God through Jesus Christ to live a new life.

Rom. 6:3–5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27

Mark 1:4; Acts 22:16

Rom. 6:4

Is it required?

Baptism is required for membership at Breakaway.

Jesus commanded it right before his ascension (Matt. 28:19-20a). Therefore, baptism **is an act of obedience** once you have responded in faith to Christ.

Why Baptism?

Baptism publicly identifies you with Christ. It is a person saying they are representing Christ to the world. They believe what he has done for them and are striving to live their lives well as his representative.

It's like a professional athlete becoming part of a new team. They may be on the team, but until they put on the jersey, they can't represent their team on the field. While you may be on "Team Jesus," when you get baptized you're saying "It's official! I'm with Jesus."

What is the gospel?

The gospel can be stated simply:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day.

But it is also complex - there is no end to the depth of understanding how the gospel applies to our lives. We need a way to think about, talk about, and share the gospel with others.

A good way to summarize it is to biblically unpack the words:
God, Man, Christ, Response.

God

God is the creator of all things. (Gen. 1:1)

He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship,
and will punish sin. (1 John 1:5, Rom. 2:5-8)

God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

God is holy. (1 Peter 1:16)

God is just. (Gen. 18:25)

Man

All people, though created good, have inherited a sinful nature through the sin of Adam.

(Gen. 1:26-28, Gen. 3, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:23)

From birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God, and subject to the wrath of God.

(Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 1)

Christ

Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give his people eternal life.

(John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26,
Rom.3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22)

Jesus is our substitute who died in our place.

(Rom. 5:8, 2 Cor. 5:21)

Response

God calls everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved.

(Mark 1:15, Acts 20:20-21, Rom. 10:9-10)

We cannot earn salvation.

(Eph. 2:8-9)

We must receive the gift of salvation.

(Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 10:9-10)

Salvation from penalty and power of sin is provided **only through the blood of Jesus Christ**, which he shed on the cross when he died in our place. Salvation cannot be earned; it must be **received as a free gift** through personal faith in Jesus Christ.

At the time of salvation, a person's sins are forgiven, and he or she is declared righteous in the eyes of God. **This salvation is complete** and all who have trusted Christ as their savior will never lose their salvation. (1 Peter 1:18-19, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Peter 1:24, Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Eph. 4:32, Rom. 5:1, Rom. 8:38-39).

How should you be baptized?

By immersion: the Greek word for baptize means "to submerge or immerse." This most accurately represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the practice of New Testament believers.

Baptism by immersion **is a response** to receiving salvation by grace through faith. Baptism is an **act of obedience** to announce and celebrate this salvation to others, symbolizing:

- death, burial and resurrection
- cleansing of sin
- new life
- union with Christ

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By immersion: the Greek word for baptize means “to submerge or immerse.” This most accurately represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and was the practice of New Testament believers.

Baptism by immersion is a response to receiving the life-changing reality of Jesus by grace through faith. Having dirt removed from your skin by water **does not save your soul**, but after placing your faith in Christ to save you from your sin, **your immediate next step is baptism**. It is an act of obedience that announces this life change to others, symbolizing:

- death, burial, and resurrection
- cleansing from sin
- new life
- union with Christ

The outward baptism in water washes away sins.

- True
- False

CORRECT ANSWER: **False**

The blood of Christ alone cleanses from sin.

Baptism is one of the ordinances of the church.

- True
- False

CORRECT ANSWER: **True.**

Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament instituted by Jesus to be a sign of the Christian's fellowship with Christ, in his death, burial, and resurrection and of being one with him. It reveals the the complete forgiveness and cancellation of your spiritual debts, identifies you with the universal body of Christ. The other ordinance we practice is the Lord's Supper (Communion), where a Christian nourishes their soul with true food and drink (John 6:55) and remembers what Jesus did for them on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:25-26).

Which of the following counts as baptism for the purpose of membership at WBCC?

You can choose multiple answers

- Believer's baptism by immersion
- Infant baptism
- Child dedication
- Confirmation

CORRECT ANSWER: **Believer's baptism by immersion**

Although many Christ-honoring churches assert a pedobaptism (child/infant baptism), we assert credobaptism (believer's baptism) only: you are baptized as a result of your conversion, not so that God may erase original sin, or a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus which is extended to us. Salvation is a personal response to Christ's work on the cross which is a gift to those who believe. Your baptism as an adult does not dismiss the baptism you received as a child. In fact, it can be viewed as a fulfillment of your parents' intentions.

Baptism is in itself a representation of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- True
- False

CORRECT ANSWER: **True**

Romans 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.

Select all of the following requirements that must be met prior to being baptized (You can choose multiple answers):

- Educated in advanced theology
- Received Jesus Christ as your savior
- No longer sinning at all

CORRECT ANSWER: **Received Jesus Christ as your savior**

You do not need to be an expert in theology to receive and respond to the gospel.

There is no such thing as a person who is a "sinless Christian" (1 John 1:8)

Only a pastor can baptize you.

- True
- False

CORRECT ANSWER: **False.**

At WBC, we believe in the royal priesthood of believers from 1 Peter 2:9, therefore any Christian who has been baptized may baptize another person who has put their faith in Christ.



Thank you for completing the baptism course!

If you're ready to be baptized, here are your next steps:

1. Complete the Baptism Testimony Form. This will help you formulate your testimony of your life before Christ, how you received Christ, and how your life has changed since then.
2. Schedule a time to film your baptism video. You can email us at info@breakaway.church to set up a time to record your testimony on camera to be shown before your baptism on a Sunday morning.
3. After filming, we'll schedule you for a Sunday morning baptism!