

BAPTISM 2021

@ OCC

Orchards Community Church's baptism will be held Sunday, August 8 on the church lawn. Hot dogs will be served at 5:00, with baptism at 6:00.

We are thrilled that you're investigating baptism as a next step in your spiritual journey. Baptism is a wonderful rite of passage in a Christ-follower's life. It is an opportunity to identify with Jesus and publicly proclaim faith in Him. When baptized, you announce that Jesus has washed away your sins and given you new life in Him.

We've mapped out some steps for baptism. This checklist is designed to make your baptism special and meaningful to you. Please carefully review:

- () The church will contact you to arrange for a personal interview with one of the church staff or church leaders. This interview is not an inquisition. We just want to get to know you better and learn how you came to know Jesus as your Savior and why you want to be baptized. It will also be your opportunity to learn about the meaning of baptism, ask questions you might have, and learn details about the baptism service.
- () Read the following pages entitled **Answering Your Questions About Baptism**.
- () Complete the **Baptism Testimony** sheet and bring it with you to the interview.
- () Get Baptized!

Pray that God would use this time as a witness in the lives of others. Be sure to invite your friends and family. This is a very special event! Whether you are new to the faith or a long standing Christian, your baptism should be a joyful, memorable experience.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Please study this sheet carefully to prepare your heart and mind for baptism.

What does the word “baptize” mean?

It means “to plunge, to immerse.” At OCC we baptize by immersion; that is, the entire body is immersed in water. We realize that other groups baptize by other modes, “pouring” or “sprinkling”. We believe immersing to be true to the biblical practice and meaning.

Who should be baptized?

Those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Note Acts 2:41; first they received the Word, then they were baptized. See also Acts 8:12 and 35-39, as well as Acts 10:44-48. This is the New Testament pattern.

Why should a believer be baptized?

Because it is a commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19)

Because Jesus modeled it. (Matthew 3:13-17)

Can children be baptized?

We are thrilled when a child has a desire to express his/her love for the Lord Jesus by the public celebration of baptism. However, it is critical that parents allow this to be initiated by the child. Baptism is a personal choice and decision. It is not a decision that a parent can make for their child any more than it is a decision that a child can make for their parent.

OCC loves children coming to faith and following Jesus in baptism! We understand and appreciate that a parent might be eager to see their child baptized, at times, more eager than the children themselves.

Additionally, we do not typically baptize children 7 years and younger, primarily because most children that age have difficulty grasping the meaning and purpose for baptism.

And from time to time, we will ask children to wait to be baptized and encourage them to just come to a baptism service and watch it...because we sense that he/she is not quite ready. But we don't usually know until the interview.

Does baptism have anything to do with salvation?

In the Book of Acts, nobody was baptized to be saved, but all were baptized because they had been saved. Read Acts 9:18, 10:44-48; 16:14-15; 20-34; and 18:8. 1 Peter 3:20-22 makes it clear that baptism does not save us by washing away our sins, for only the blood of Christ can do that. But obedience in baptism does save us from a guilty conscience, because we know we have obeyed Christ's command.

Are there any verses in the Bible that connect baptism with salvation?

There are verses which state: "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3), and "for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

A distinction must be made between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit enters your body to make it a temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). No amount of water applied externally can put a person "into Jesus Christ". Only the Holy Spirit can do this. The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" occurs the instant you are saved through faith in Christ, and it is the baptism that makes you a part of His Body.

What is the picture of baptism?

Since the believer is totally immersed in water, the action becomes a picture of death, burial and resurrection. The old life is symbolically buried, and we are raised to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). When our Lord Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan, he said, "...Let it be so now; it is proper for us (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) to fulfill all righteousness." Matthew 3:15). God "fulfilled all righteousness" through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, pictured in His baptism. Christ's baptism in water in the River Jordan was a picture of His "baptism of suffering" on the cross where He died for our sins (Luke 12:50). Our baptism in water is a picture of inner spiritual experience. We have had the old life buried with Christ, and we are raised to live in resurrection power (Col. 2:12-15).

How many times should be a person be baptized?

Only once. We meet at the Lord's Supper repeatedly to remember His broken body and shed blood; but we are baptized only once, since we are saved only once. If a Christian gets out of fellowship with the Lord because of sin, he can confess his sins and be forgiven (1 John 1:5-10); but it is not necessary to be baptized again. Water baptism is a once-for-all public testimony of our identification in death, burial and resurrection. It is not a religious ceremony that washes away our sins.

What if a person was baptized before he was saved?

Then he was not really "baptized" – he was merely dipped into water. Baptism takes on new meaning for the believer because he or she knows this was done in obedience to God's command. Anyone who has been "baptized" prior to conversion should be baptized as the Scriptures command. This is the way to maintain a good conscience before God.

We are glad that you desire to be obedient to Christ by going through the waters of baptism. While baptism does not bring salvation, it is a bold, public declaration of our association with Christ and His people. Please carefully look at the following items in preparation for your baptism:

1. **What to wear:**

...clothes you will not mind getting wet. Please be modest. Most people wear shorts and a t-shirt. Women may choose to wear a swimsuit under shorts and a t-shirt.

2. **What to bring:**

...a towel

...a complete extra change of clothing

Don't forget to pray that God would use this time as a witness in the lives of others. Be sure to invite your friends and family. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

In Christ,

Pastor James Green

