



# BAPTISM

## ADULT CLASS

Your decision to become a Christ-follower has a public side to it. When you are baptized, you declare publicly that you have had an encounter with Jesus, and that you've turned from your sin and put your trust in Him alone for your salvation. It is a public celebration of His work in your life. We're glad to help you prepare for that moment!

### **The Teaching of Christ**

Several passages in the New Testament show the importance of baptism, and reveal that the baptismal candidate is following Christ's **example**, and obeying His **command**.

The baptism of Jesus is recorded in Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21-22. It would be good to read those passages as you think about your own baptism. He gave us an example, and when we go into the waters of baptism, we follow in His footsteps.

Jesus made it clear to His disciples that baptism would be part of the experience of those who would decide to follow Him. He said in Matthew 28:19, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."*

It's important to understand that baptism is not a human invention. It was God's idea, and those who experience it are following both the example and the command of Christ Himself!

### **The Significance of Baptism**

All that was needed for your salvation was accomplished by Christ on the cross, and it became yours when you put your trust in Him as His follower. We are saved by faith, not by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9), and people who trust Christ but die before being baptized (like the thief on the cross next to Jesus) are guaranteed their place in heaven alongside those who do take this step.

So baptism doesn't save you, but it does identify you with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection. The act of total immersion in the water (which is the Biblical mode of baptism, and the one we practice at Heights) is a reenactment of His death and burial, and emerging from the water is a re-enactment of His resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). It is a visual way of saying what Paul says in Galatians 2:20: *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."*

### **Who should be baptized?**

All who have decided to follow Christ should be baptized. We practice what is known as Believers Baptism at Heights – we baptize people who are able to understand the gospel and take that step of faith. Infants are not yet able to do that, so we do not baptize babies. We do pray for babies and their parents through our Parent-Child Dedication services, and you are invited to contact our Children's Ministry if you would like to learn more about that opportunity.

If you are a candidate for baptism, you are invited to contact the church office or speak to a pastor. A short preparatory class will give a church leader the opportunity to confirm that you understand the gospel and have begun to follow Christ, and that this decision has started to make a difference in your life. We will then gladly schedule your baptism.

Jesus died publicly for us, and calls us to live publicly for Him. Baptism is one of many ways to accomplish that goal. It can be a powerful moment in the life of a Christ-follower, one that brings great pleasure and glory to God, and we are eager to help you take that step!



# H THE GOSPEL

**1. Garden:** God created mankind in His image, with the ability to know Him, and gave us a role with a purpose: to make His greatness known. (Romans 1:20, Genesis 1:26-27)

*I understand that God created me in His image, to live in relationship with Him and to display his greatness.*

**2. Fall:** Human pride led to rebellion and ruptured relationship with God, as sin made mankind the object of the holy God's justifiable wrath. (Ephesians 2:1-2)

*I know that my sin has destroyed my relationship with God, and that there is nothing I can do to earn my way back to a restored relationship with him.*

**3. Cross:** Through the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God expressed His love for mankind and satisfied His wrath against sin, accomplishing a rescue mission to restore His creation to its intended purpose. (Romans 5:6-11)

*I am glad that God loved me enough to send his son Jesus to rescue me from the judgment I deserve. He died on the cross to pay for my sin.*

**4. Response:** by changing our minds about our sinful pride and choosing to become followers of Christ, we are restored to a right relationship with God and our role in His plan. (Luke 9:23-25, Ephesians 2:8-10)

*I have repented of my sin and I have put my trust in Christ for my salvation. Thanks to him, my relationship with God is restored. By His strength, I can now live a life that shows how great He is. He has restored me to my place in His plan.*

YOU SAID YES TO ENCOUNTER JESUS, AND WE'RE SO GLAD THAT YOU DID!

## NOW WHAT?

### ENGAGE

Cause your faith to grow by spending time reading God's word and talking to Him through prayer. Allow others to engage with your story through baptism. Contact us about the next baptism service.

Connect with other Christ-followers through the different ministries of Heights. We have Life Groups, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, and gatherings for students, seniors, and children.

### EMPOWER

Look for a place to serve on one of our Serve Teams. We'll be glad to help you find a place that fits you well.

### CONTACT US

If you need a bible and a reading plan just ask, we have one for you!

Phone: 928-445-1421

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Web: heightschurch.com

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Accepting Christ for the first time [ ] Rededication

Full Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_