

WHY BAPTISM

Baptism: Identifying with God's Family

Healthy families have family pride; members are not ashamed to be recognized as a part of the family. Sadly, I have met many believers who have never publicly identified themselves with their spiritual family as Jesus commanded – by being baptized.

Baptism is not an optional ritual, to be delayed or postponed. It signifies your inclusion in God's family. It publicly announces to the world, "I am not ashamed to be a part of God's family." Have you been baptized? Jesus commanded this beautiful act for all in his family. He told us to "go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

For years I wondered why Jesus' Great Commission gives the same prominence to baptism as it does to the great tasks of evangelism and edification. Why is baptism so important? Then I realized it is because it symbolizes God's second purpose for you life: participating in the fellowship of God's eternal family.

Baptism is pregnant with meaning. Your baptism declares your faith, shares Christ's burial and resurrection, symbolizes your death to your old life, and announces your new life in Christ. It is also a celebration of your inclusion in God's family.

Your baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual truth. It represents what happened the moment God brought you into his family: "Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit."

Baptism doesn't make you a member of God's family; only faith in Christ does that. Baptism shows you are part of God's family. Like a wedding ring, it is a visible reminder of an inward commitment made in your heart. It is an act of initiation, not something you put off until you are spiritually mature. The only biblical condition is that you believe. →



→ In the New Testament, people were baptized as soon as they believed. At Pentecost, 3,000 were baptized the same day they accepted Christ. Elsewhere, an Ethiopian leader was baptized on the spot when he was converted, and Paul and Silas baptized a Philippian jailer and his family at midnight. There are no delayed baptisms in the New Testament. If you haven't been baptized as an expression of your faith in Christ, do so as soon as possible, as Jesus commanded.

(Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church*, pp.

PROCESS

Living Hope has made baptism a strategic and key event in the life of the church. Though baptism does not make a person a "believer," it does show an outward reminder of the fact.

We ask all new members to be baptized as a believer if they have not been baptized before.

Baptism services are held several times during the year and normally occur as an extension of the 11 a.m. Sunday worship service. Those being baptized give their testimonies, making the event extremely personal and meaningful for those being baptized as well as those witnessing it.

If you are interested in getting baptized, we ask that you understand the following requirements:

1. Fill out the baptism application completely and hand it to one of the pastors.
2. Attend the baptism class. The classes are normally offered one week prior to the actual baptism during the 9:00 a.m. service.
3. Ask two or three people who are meaningful to you to attend the baptism. They can be friends or family members who have played an instrumental role in your testimony, or they can simply be people with whom you want to share the event.

On the day of the baptism, you will give your baptism during both services and be water baptized during the second.

BAPTISM



Living Hope Community Church



What is baptism & why
is it for every Christian?

Application for Baptism

Personal Information:

Name:		Birthdate		Affinity group:	
Cell phone:		Email:			
Address:					
Living Hope member?					

Spiritual History (Write a brief testimony of how you became a Christian)

What did you believe in order to become a Christian?

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Briefly describe when and how you became a Christian.

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You will be asked to invite two or three meaningful people to your baptism. They can be people who played an instrumental part in your spiritual journey or those whom you simply want to share with. Who are some of the people whom you would like to share with and why.

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Comments

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Process:

1. Please fill out the application fully and turn into Pastor David Kim.
2. Attend the baptism class the Sunday prior to baptism week.
3. Invite meaningful people to the baptism ceremony.

Interview w/ Pastor or Elder:

date of interview:

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name of pastor/elder:

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pastor/elder signature:

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comments:

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