

Just about all churches practice the ordinance of baptism but there are slightly different views on what it exactly means and how it should be done. The following questions should help to clarify what our view of baptism is at Hammond Bay Church.

A. Who Should Be Baptized?

Everyone who has believed in Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour from sin.

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized. Acts 2:41.

Simon himself believed and was baptized... Acts 8:13.

B. Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow Christ's example.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. Mark 1:9.

2. Because Jesus commanded it.

Jesus said., 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. Mat. 28:19-20.

3. It shows I am a Christian.

...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized. Act 18:8.

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands... 1 John 2:3.

C. What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

1. It illustrates the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again. 1 Cor. 15:3-4

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. " Col. 2: 12.

2. It illustrates the death of our old life and the new resurrection life we share with Christ.

By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so also we may live a new life. Rom. 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it demonstrates that you already believe. It's important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. You are "saved" only by your faith in Jesus.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. "Eph. 2:8-9.

Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you've made in your heart. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment.

D. Why Be Baptized By Immersion (full submersion)?

1. It appears that's the way Jesus was baptized.

As soon as Jesus was baptized. He went up out of the water. Matthew 3:16.

2. It appears that every baptism was by immersion.

(Example) .. then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... Acts 8:38-39.

3. The word "baptize" (baptizo) actually means to "dip under water".

4. Immersion best symbolizes a death and resurrection.

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Col. 2:12.

A Great Question:

What if I was baptized as an infant?

Some churches baptize infants. At Hammond Bay we don't. We only baptize those who have made a decision to believe in Christ's death as the payment for their sin and have turned to Him as their Lord and Saviour from sin. In the Bible, men and women were baptized following their belief in Jesus. Infant baptism is a ceremony intended to emphasize a commitment between the parents and God on behalf of the child. During this ceremony, the parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. At Hammond Bay, we have a dedication service for infants and children. Therefore, if you were baptized as a baby, we encourage you to be baptized by immersion as a believer.

E. When Should I Be Baptized?

Sometimes it is many months or years before a person is baptized after they have believed. But in the New Testament, it appears that people were baptized almost immediately after professing faith in Christ. Baptism is simply a public declaration that "I have become a Christian." There is no need to become "mature" or "worthy".

Those who accepted his message were baptized... that day. Acts 2:41.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized right now? Then (they) went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:36-38.

