

Common Questions & Answers

What if I've been baptised as a baby?

Infant baptism is not mentioned directly in the Bible and is more an act of parents committing their children to the Lord, similar to the Dedication of Children we practice at BBCC. Those who were baptised as babies still need to follow the Lord's command to be baptised once they have made a mature commitment to follow Christ.

Can I be baptised more than once as an adult?

Some adults feel the need to be baptised again if their first baptism was either forced upon them, done in ignorance, or without real sincerity. In these cases we call the ceremony a reaffirmation of your baptism. There is some scriptural support for this position in Acts 19:1-7 where 12 men are baptised for the second time after a fuller explanation and acceptance of the gospel.

Do I have to speak or share my testimony at my baptism?

No, but you will need to write out a brief testimony for the Pastor and the Elders so they can understand your spiritual journey.

Who Baptises Me?

Usually Pastor Andrew, but we are also happy for a close friend or family member to be involved.

What do I wear in the water?

For the men we recommend long swimming shorts and a plain dark coloured tee shirt. For the ladies, long shorts or trousers and a plain dark coloured tee shirt. Please remember that wet clothes tend to be see through, so please dress with modesty.

What else do I need to bring to my baptism?

Other than a change of clothes (one for the service and one for the baptism) you'll need one large towel and a bag for all your wet clothes. Remember you'll be completely soaked after your baptism, and sometimes a little cold, so bring some warm clothes to change into.

Is the water heated?

Yes!

If you have any more questions please talk to Pastor Andrew or one the Elders.



Christian Baptism

Blockhouse Bay Community Church

For thousands of years Christians have been obeying the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament, and baptizing people who became followers of Jesus Christ. The method of baptism has varied considerably from the use of rivers and lakes to swimming pools and specially made baptismal pools in church buildings like our own. While the method's have varied, the meaning and importance has not changed.

Baptism is a public and outward demonstration of an internal change and commitment to Jesus Christ. This spiritual transformation that Jesus calls being "born again" involves confessing and repenting of our sinfulness to God, asking for His forgiveness, and living under His leadership. If we've done this, we're Christians and ready to be baptized.

Four reasons why a Christian should be Baptised

1. Baptism is commanded by Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:19: *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,*

Jesus clearly teaches us that when people become Christians (disciples) they should be baptized

2. Baptism is commended by the example of Jesus

Jesus traveled over 100kms to be baptized ...

Mark 1:9 *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan*

...he is a perfect example for us.

3. Baptism was the common practice of Christians in the New Testament Church, following immediately after conversion

Acts 2:41 - *The thousands who became Christians on the Day of Pentecost were baptized*

Acts 8:35-38 *The man from Ethiopia believed and was baptised immediately*

See also Acts 9:18; Acts 10:43-48; Acts 16:14-15; Acts 16:30-34 and Acts 18:8

The New Testament Church followed the teaching and the example of Jesus.

4. Baptism has powerful spiritual significance

The internal change and commitment to Christ that baptism symbolizes is more fully explained by the following verses:

In 1 Peter 3:18-21 we're told that baptism symbolizes the washing of our spiritual lives which God does for us when He forgives our sins.

In Romans 6 we're told that as we go under the waters of baptism it symbolizes the death of our old self-centered lives, and as we come up out the water it symbolizes the new resurrected life we live for God in the power of the Holy Spirit. See also Colossians 2:12.

In Galatians 3:26-29 we learn that baptism symbolizes our unity with Christ and with other Christians. It's a way of showing we're part of God's family and co-heirs of His promises.

Often people experience a deepening of their walk with God when they are baptized. Some receive a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit, others sense the deepening of their relationship with other Christians. While our experiences will differ, we can be assured that when we obey the Lord's instructions for our lives, we will be blessed.

As you can see, baptism has a powerful spiritual significance and therefore we reserve this special event for those old enough to understand it's meaning, and for those who have made a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ. We also totally immerse people in water to help the symbolism take it's full effect and to honour the meaning of the word Baptism ("to immerse or dip under water").

What Happens Next?

If you've made a Christian commitment as explained earlier, and you haven't yet been baptised as a fully understanding follower of Christ, you need to be baptised as soon as possible.

Tell the Pastor or Elders that you want to be baptised and they'll arrange an opportunity at an upcoming Sunday morning service.

The call of God is clear, the opportunity is now