



blockhouse bay
community church

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM



For thousands of years Christians have been obeying the Biblical teaching of Jesus and the Apostles, and baptising 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 methods 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 Admitting we’re sinners, Believing in Jesus Christ, and Committing to live under His leadership. If we’ve done this sincerely, we’re Christians, and ready to be baptised.

4 REASONS WHY A CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE BAPTISED

1. Baptism is commanded by Jesus Christ.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

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

2. Baptism is commended by the example of Jesus.

Jesus traveled over 100kms to be baptised ...

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

...he is a perfect example for us.

3. Baptism was the common practice of Christians in the New Testament Church, and followed soon after conversion.

*The thousands who became Christians on the Day of Pentecost were baptised Acts 2:41
The man from Ethiopia believed and was baptised immediately Acts 8:35-38*

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

The early 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 baptised. 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 its 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 its 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 Pastors or Elders that you want to be baptised and they'll arrange an opportunity at an upcoming service.

The Bible makes God's will clear, it's now time for you to act.

Got Questions? Take a look over the page...



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

How old do I need to be?

The minimum recommended age is 12 but we'll consider younger people if they have a solid relationship with Jesus and have their parents' or caregivers' permission.

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. We encourage those who were baptised as babies to follow the Lord's command and be baptised as believers 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?

We give you that opportunity but it's not compulsory. We do require a written testimony to be submitted to the Pastors so they can understand your spiritual journey, and make sure that you're ready to be baptised. Your testimony is then printed in a booklet for the church to read.

Who Baptises Me?

Usually one of the Pastors, but it's fine to have a close friend or family member involved as well. We also ask each person to have someone special to pray for them as they're in the water, waiting to be baptised.

Can I invite friends and family?

Absolutely! We encourage people to invite as many people as possible to celebrate this special occasion and as a witness to their Christian faith.

What do I wear in the water?

For the men we recommend long swimming shorts and a plain, dark coloured t-shirt. For the ladies, long shorts or trousers and a plain, dark coloured t-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 two large towels and a bag for all your wet clothes. Remember you'll be completely soaked after your baptism, and the water is cold, so bring some warm clothes to change into.



info@bbcc.org.nz



09 626 6284



bbcc.org.nz



76 Dundale Avenue, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland 0600