

MESSAGE NOTES

March 24, 2013

Living Church: Baptism, Pt 1
Acts 8:36; 22:16
Pastor Jeff Neisen

- The church in Acts was _____ to _____ baptism.
- But today we let things _____ in the _____ of being baptized.

"Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"
Acts 8:36

UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM AS THEY DID

- ① COMMAND. _____ gave to _____ believer. Matt 28:19; Acts 2:37-38

Baptism is an act of loving _____ to Jesus. John 14:15; Luke 6:46

- ② FORM. _____ into, placed fully _____ & up out of _____.

Baptizo = wash, dip, _____, submerge. Mk 1:10; Jn 3:23; Acts 8:38-39

Baptism is _____ w/His death, burial, resurrection. Rom 6:3-4

- ③ TIMING. _____ & _____ baptized. Mk 16:16; Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 18:8

Baptism is _____ myself grate _____ to God. Rom 6:1-13; 12:1

RESPONDING TO JESUS' COMMAND

- *Not yet baptized as a believer?* Humble myself & _____ baptized.
- *Already baptized as a believer?* _____ my baptism _____. Gal 2:20
- _____ to be His living church in this _____. Acts 4:32-37

"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name." Acts 22:16

AND NOW WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?

- I will follow You _____ & let _____ stand in the way. Mt 3:13-17

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Baptism FAQs

Frequently asked questions about baptism

Q: Do I have to be baptized in order to be saved?

No.

We're saved by grace through trusting in Jesus as Lord (Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8). Yet verses like Mark 16:16 suggest believing & being baptized are connected. Baptism is often an evidence of whether or not Jesus is truly Lord of our lives.

Q: Do I have to be baptized by immersion to be a member of Cherry Hills?

Yes.

You can participate in nearly every activity of the church without being a member, but we do require baptism by immersion (placed completely under water) for membership because this seems to be the most accurate interpretation (Acts 18:26; Romans 6:3-4).

Don't be baptized to join the church, but because Jesus wants you to do so.

NOTE: If you have physical limitations or other concerns, please talk with us.

Q: Do I have to be baptized in a church service?

No.

But we encourage this because it is such an important witness.

The Ethiopian official & Philippian jailer were baptized in other settings (Acts 8:36; 16:33). If, as a believer, you've been baptized by immersion at a camp, swimming pool, another church or privately, we recognize this as obedience to Christ's command.

Q: When should children be baptized?

We don't baptize infants. If you were sprinkled as an infant or small child, thank God (and your parents) for this blessing, but reaffirm your faith in Jesus by being baptized as a believer.

As children are nurtured & taught by their parents, we think when they reach an age of understanding, they will, of their own free will, say, "I want to be baptized." Don't force this, but encourage it. Contact Family Pastor, Brian Schwarberg with questions (217) 546-4818.

Q: When, if ever, should I be re-baptized?

If you weren't baptized as a believer, we invite you to affirm your faith in Jesus by doing so. Perhaps you don't feel you understood what you were doing, or got away from the Lord. In most cases, we urge you to now "live" your baptism each day.

But if you have questions, talk with one of our pastors or elders after the service.