

MESSAGE NOTES

January 27, 2019

*Be Baptized
Acts 22:16
Pastor Jeff Nelsen*

- Jesus' _____ followers were _____ to practicing _____.
- It's so easy to _____ being baptized & see it as _____.
- We can let _____, _____ or _____ stand in the way.

"Look, here is water! What can stand in the way of my [what is stopping me from] being baptized?" Acts 8:36 (NIV/NLT)

UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM AS THEY DID

- ① **SEQUENCE.** They _____ and were _____. Acts 8:12; 18:8
- New _____ were _____ to _____ baptized. Acts 10:47-48; 22:16
- + Baptism is a _____ expression of an inward _____. Acts 16:29-34
- ② **FORM.** Go _____ into, placed _____ & _____ out of the water.
- *Baptizo* = to _____ immerse, _____, submerge. Mk 1:10; Acts 8:38-39
- + Baptism is _____ w/Jesus' death, burial, resurrection. Rom 6:3-5
- ③ **COMMAND.** Jesus gives to _____. Matt 28:19; Acts 2:37-38
- Jesus doesn't command w/out _____ Himself. Matt 3:13-15
- + Baptism is an invitation to _____ Jesus as _____. John 14:15; Luke 6:46

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

RESPONDING TO JESUS' COMMAND

- *Not yet a believer in Jesus?* _____ His _____ news. Mark 1:15
- *Not yet baptized as a believer?* _____ & be baptized. Acts 9:18
- *Already baptized as a believer?* _____ my baptism _____. Gal 2:20

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Baptism FAQ's

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 that believing & being baptized are connected. Being baptized is a step Jesus commanded each of His followers to take.

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 our church without being a member, but we require baptism by immersion (placed completely under water) for membership. Why? This seems to be the most accurate interpretation (Acts 18:26; Romans 6:3-4). Please be baptized because Jesus wants you to do so, not just for membership.
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's such an important witness. Both the Ethiopian official & Philippian jailer were baptized in other settings (see Acts 8:36; 16:33). So, if as a believer, you've been baptized by immersion at a camp, swimming pool, another church or privately, we recognize it 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 we ask you to 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 our Children & Family Ministry Leader, Jessica Schildman (JessicaS@cherryhillsfamily.org) with questions.

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

If you weren't baptized as a believer, we invite you to reaffirm 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.