

Baptism at WCC

What is the Biblical foundation for Baptism?

Jesus' final recorded words to His followers before His return to heaven express the importance He placed on Baptism. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands His followers, "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Baptism does not provide salvation for an individual, but rather serves as a way for the individual to publicly announce they have placed their faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

In passages such as Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47–48, the act of Baptism *follows* an individual's decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. In Romans 6:1–11, the apostle Paul describes the immersion of Baptism as a means through which the believer identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ: Going under the water represents Christ's death and a believer's death to sin; coming out of the water illustrates His resurrection and a believer's new life in Christ.

Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ that follows an individual's acceptance of salvation by God's grace alone.

Baptism isn't required for salvation; however, if someone has truly committed themselves to Christ and trust in Him alone for salvation, they will desire to show that by being baptized. This is what we see in the New Testament when people decided to follow Christ.

Why doesn't WCC practice infant Baptism?

In the New Testament, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told His disciples to welcome them. But He did not baptize them, and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. Baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation.

If you were baptized as an infant, we feel confident it was with good intentions by your parents. However, as stated above, placing our faith and trust in Jesus Christ is a personal decision. According to Scripture, it is not a decision made for us by another individual.

Here at WCC, we do baptize older children who have attended a Baptism Class and demonstrate having a clear understanding of the purpose and meaning of Baptism (i.e. to publicly announce they have placed their faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.)

Am I spiritually ready for Baptism?

Once someone professes faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, the Bible says they should proclaim the life change that has occurred—the watching world needs to know. Baptism has always stood as a public testimony for people who have become believers in Christ. Believers are those who have realized that their sins have separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through their own good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his or her salvation.

If you have come to this point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized.