

# Five Facts You Should Know About Biblical Baptism

## **FACT # 1** *Baptism Does Not Make You A Member Of A Local Church.*

While baptism does identify us with every other follower of Jesus Christ, at Valley Community Church we believe we are children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ along with all who have placed their faith in Christ alone for salvation and have surrendered their lives to Jesus as Lord. Baptism symbolizes the unity we have with all believers everywhere and over all time. A local congregation of believers represents only a portion of God's church.  
*1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:4-5*

## **FACT # 2** *Baptism Does Not Save You.*

Salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works. We cannot "do" anything to earn our salvation. The Apostle Paul taught we are spiritually marked or identified by Christ as we put off the old self, having been buried with Jesus in baptism, and raised by our faith in the power of God. Being obedient to God in baptism is the first step of putting off the old self. In a real sense, baptism is the acid test demonstrating Jesus' ownership of our lives. People should see a difference in us as a result of submitting to Christ's authority. Baptism is the first step of obedience mentioned in the Bible. *Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 2:8-9*

## **FACT # 3** *Baptism Does Not Need To Be Done Publicly..*

Although it is great that people are able to witness your baptism, the Bible teaches baptism is the personal decision of each believer, in making "a response of a good conscience toward God." Baptism was the immediate response of those who trusted Jesus for their salvation. It is a response to God, not others, of a changed life. Biblically speaking, baptisms can occur privately with just two people or in public services with many people.  
*1 Peter 3:21; Acts 8:12-13, 37-38; 9:18-19; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 31-33; 18:8*

## **FACT # 4** *Baptism Is Commanded By Christ For All Believers.*

Before Jesus began his earthly ministry, he identified with mankind by being baptized. Baptism was given as the first act of obedience for every Christian. The Bible knows nothing of Christians who confess Jesus as Lord and then eventually get baptized months or years later at a more convenient time, so others can be there, or after they learn more about being a Christian. Believers were baptized immediately after they placed their faith in Jesus. Only professing believers are valid candidates for biblical baptism.  
*Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12-13; 9:18-19; 16:31-33*

## **FACT # 5** *Baptism Identifies Us With The Death, Burial, And Resurrection of Jesus.*

According to the Bible, the gospel, or "good news" is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. We choose to follow Christ when we die to ourselves and our desire to run our own lives. Then in baptism we are buried with Christ in a watery grave, and then rise to walk in new life. Baptism is saying good-bye to self-leadership and hello to Christ as our new boss. Believers do not need to repeat their baptism if they stray from the faith. They simply need to confess their sin and repent. Baptism is designed to be a one-time event...Repentance is the on-going response of a humble believer who realizes they have strayed from God's commands. *Romans 6:3-4; 1 John 1:7-9*