

# Baptism at Welcome Bay Community Church

(Adapted from Sunrise Church USA)

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What Is The Meaning of Baptism?**

Baptism is a symbol of one's identification by faith with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

*"Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was."* Romans 6:3-5

Baptism pictures the death and burial of the old person before you were saved, and resurrection of a new life to be lived for the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **What Baptism Is Not...**

Baptism is not how you get to heaven. Only faith in Jesus Christ gets you to heaven.

*"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."* Ephesians 2:8-9

It is not proof to your church that your salvation is real.

The biblical proofs of salvation are true belief in the historic Jesus as revealed in the Bible (1 John 4:1-2), love for the believers (1 John 3:14-18), a lifestyle of moving towards righteousness (1 John 1:6; 3:9-10) and remaining in Jesus (1 John 2:19).

### **Why Should I Be Baptised?**

Baptism is the first step to following Christ's example.

A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus was baptised by John in the river Jordan.

*One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River.* Mark 1:9

Baptism is commanded by Jesus Christ.

He instructed his disciples to baptize others.

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

Baptism is the pattern followed by all of the New Testament believers.

*Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptised.* Acts 18:8

Baptism is a public confession of a new life in Christ and a sign of our loyalty and obedience to Christ and his word.

### **When Should I Get Baptised?**

The most detailed example of baptism is found in Acts 8 where Phillip told a man about Jesus.

*As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.* Acts 8:36-37

There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person declares their belief in Christ, they may be baptised.

### **Who Should Be Baptised?**

Those who heard Peter's Pentecost sermon are examples.

*Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. ...Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day, about 3,000 in all.* Acts 2:37-38, 41

Baptism is only for those who have received the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

*But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.* Acts 8:12

## **Practical Questions**

### **Can My Family Be Baptised Together?**

Yes! If each member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptised at the same time.

It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ.

This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

### **What Should I Wear?**

Both men and women should bring shorts or longs and a dark shirt to wear. Bring a towel and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We will provide a changing room.

### **What Will Happen That Day?**

Please arrive 20 minutes early. You will be greeted by our Baptism Coordinator who will assist you.

Once the baptism begins and it is your turn, the Pastor will introduce you.

The Pastor will ask your name and you may have given a brief testimony of your faith in Jesus Christ, earlier in the service.

We encourage you to invite your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

### **What Should I Share In My Testimony?**

Your testimony of faith should include the following three parts:

- 1) How long you have been coming to WBCC
- 2) When you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord
- 3) Why you are getting baptised

Please prepare your testimony in writing and come prepared to read it to your family and friends.

### **What If I Have Special Needs?**

Our Pastor can perform a private baptism in special circumstances

### **When Is Baptism Class?**

Please email or phone the Church office and you will be informed of the dates of the next class. At the baptism class we will set a date and time for the service.

### **Infant Dedication/Christening**

These can be arranged after discussion with the Pastor.  
Please contact the church office.

### **Office Address**

Welcome Bay and Carmel Community Churches,  
340 Welcome Bay Road  
Tauranga 3112  
New Zealand  
☎ (07) 544 0682  
✉ [office@wbcc.org.nz](mailto:office@wbcc.org.nz)  
🌐 [www.wbcc.org.nz](http://www.wbcc.org.nz)

August 2011 edition