

Baptism A Beautiful Picture of Resurrection Life

Have you ever considered the frightening truth that every living person was born spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1)? From conception to final breath, we are in a short season of temporal life. However, from an eternal perspective, we are not alive yet at all (Romans 5:12). We are the walking dead until by the free gift of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and by his electing grace alone, we are given life from above, and our inner person is made new.

Baptism is one of two ordinances (the other being communion) that every biblical church must faithfully practice. It's a public act of obedience to the Lord who commanded and even modeled it (Matthew 28:19-20, 3:13-17). When followers of Christ are baptized, they give testimony to the transforming power of the gospel, one person at a time. It's a bold witness to the fact that Jesus Christ has set them free from the power of sin. Ideally this happens in the context of a local church made up of fellow believers willing to hold them accountable to that testimony.

At Tri-City Bible Church, we practice baptism of adults by immersion, which best represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:1-5) and symbolizes the burial of the old self and the emerging of a "new creation" in our own lives as we seek to walk and grow with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We baptize those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ's, his sacrificial death and resurrection, (1 Peter 1:3). We teach that every believer must acknowledge Christ as Lord of his life, and strive, by his grace and indwelling power, to faithfully follow him. We know he will preserve them until they are presented to him at the last day (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Since Scripture is not clear on what the minimum age for baptism should be, every church must decide what they think is wise. We believe it's important to wait until a person reaches a stage in life where they have clearly begun to bear fruit, and their faith has been proven to be their own.