



August 14, 2016  
Celebration · 9:00 am  
Elevation · 11:00 am  
Pastor Matt Doan

## Baptism: What Exactly Are We Doing?

**We are following the example of Jesus.** Matthew 3:13-17

*"Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him."* Matthew 3:13

- Jesus, the fulfillment of all righteousness. Matthew 3:14
- The word "baptizo" is mentioned 3x in this passage (means to dip or immerse).

**We are identifying with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.** Romans 6:3-7

*"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."* Romans 6:4

- Baptism isn't a ticket to heaven. Romans 10:9-10 · Ephesians 2:8
- Baptism is an outward symbol and sign of an inward personal faith in Jesus Christ.  
Romans 6:3-7 · 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

**We are obeying the call of Jesus.** Matthew 28:18-20

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."* Matthew 28:19

- The 1st century church took the call of baptism seriously.  
Acts 9:18 · Acts 10:47-48 · Acts 16:15,33 · Acts 18:8 · Acts 19:5
- Baptism and global family of God.

**Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.** Acts 8:25-39

*"Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"* Acts 8:36

## Next Steps:

1. **Be Baptized.** Our next baptism opportunity is next Sunday, August 21 at 5:30pm at Pirate's Cove at Corona Del Mar. To sign up, meet with a pastor or elder in the Prayer Room (located near the front stage) after today's service or email Tammy at [tharris@calvarylife.org](mailto:tharris@calvarylife.org) for more details. Discover more about Beach Baptisms and the Beach Party at [calvarylife.org/baptism](http://calvarylife.org/baptism)
2. **Join a LifeGroup.** Calvary LifeGroups (small groups) are the primary place, beyond Sunday worship, where we actively engage in the life and purpose of our church: to connect, grow, and reach. During the LifeGroup Fair after services on Sunday, September 18, you'll have a chance to meet LifeGroup leaders and find a group you can grow with. [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)
3. **Be Mentored.** One of the best ways to grow in your journey with God is to have an older Christian come alongside you for a season to encourage, read the Bible and pray with you. Calvary has a great discipleship/mentoring program awaiting you! To sign up or learn more, visit [calvarylife.org/mentor](http://calvarylife.org/mentor)

# Frequently Asked Questions about baptism at Calvary Church:

- Q: Is baptism required to get to heaven? A:** No. The Bible makes it clear that the way to heaven is through faith (belief) in Jesus Christ as your Savior (forgiver of your sins) and Lord (leader of your life). Read John 3:16, John 11:25-26, Romans 10:9-10 and 1 John 5:11-12. The false idea that baptism is required for salvation is called, "Baptismal Regeneration." The Bible does not teach this. Biblical evidence opposing "Baptismal Regeneration" is found in the account of the thief on the cross next to Jesus in Luke 23:39-43. Jesus tells this man that today he would be with Him in paradise, never alluding to any need to be baptized.
- Q: Who should be baptized? A:** Baptism is for any person who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Baptism is an outward symbol of an internal faith in Jesus Christ. There is evidence in the book of Acts of people being baptized immediately after placing their faith in Jesus (Acts 2:37-41). There is also an example of an entire family being baptized at the same time after receiving Christ. (Acts 16:14-15).
- Q: Does infant baptism count? A:** Paedobaptism describes the practice of infant baptism. "Paedo" is the Latin word for child or infant. Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Anglicans and some Methodist churches practice paedobaptism. Infant baptism cannot be explicitly found in the Bible. So, where did these denominations come up with this practice? Paedobaptists point to the continuity of the covenants as evidence to baptize babies. In the Old Testament, circumcision was performed on every Jewish male baby in order to symbolize that the baby was born into the (Old) covenant family. Paedobaptists argue that the New Testament or new covenant version of circumcision is baptism; therefore, babies should be baptized as a symbol that they are born into a Christian family. Most paedobaptists don't believe that infant baptism saves the child only that it points to the parents' new covenant believing faith in Jesus Christ. The best argument against infant baptism is found in the life of Jesus. Jesus was dedicated and circumcised in the temple as a child (Luke 2:21-38) and then baptized later in life at the age of 30 (Luke 3:21-22). In the book of Acts, the early Church model is personal faith in Jesus Christ before baptism. (Acts Chapters 8-10; 16-19) Therefore, at Calvary Church, we dedicate babies and children, but do not baptize babies.
- Q: Can I get re-baptized? A:** Theologian J.D. Greear writes, "There's no hard and fast answer, but here's what I'd suggest: if you know clearly that you were not saved at the point when you were baptized (i.e., you were pressured into baptism by your parents or friends, had no real grasp of salvation, had some ulterior motive, etc.), then be baptized again. However, if your baptism depicted the beginning of a journey of faith, a journey marked by numerous "awakenings" and defining moments, let it stand, even if you wonder that perhaps your "regeneration" happened later. The writer of Hebrews calls baptism an "elementary" thing that we should build from, not work up to (Heb. 6:1-3). So, unless you know you were either completely ignorant or willfully hypocritical at the time of your baptism, get busy with the meatier things of Christianity (i.e., serving Jesus and pouring yourself out for Him)!"
- Q: What is the difference between being baptized in the water and in the Holy Spirit? A:** The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment you place your faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit comes into your life, sealing you for the day of redemption, placing you in union with Jesus Christ and in God's family (John 14, Romans 6). Water baptism occurs after salvation. It is a symbolic reflection of what happened when you were baptized by the Holy Spirit at your moment of conversion.
- Q: What is the deal with sprinkling? Does one have to be fully immersed? A:** The New Testament was primarily written in Greek. While the Greek language had words for pour and sprinkle, the biblical authors specifically used the word "baptizo" when describing baptisms. "Baptizo" means to immerse or dip. When Jesus was baptized, Mark 1:9 describes Him coming "out of the water" giving us a clue that Jesus was baptized under water, not just sprinkled with water. However, there is no biblical mandate for how to do baptisms. It isn't a sin to sprinkle or pour water in a baptism, especially if the circumstance (health or location) don't allow for a full immersion.
- Q: How old should kids be before they consider being baptized? A:** A child should be old enough to understand the Good News of Jesus (that He came into this world, lived a sinless life, went to the cross and died for our sins and rose again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day overcoming death and conquering sin) and be able to articulate a personal belief in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. At Calvary, we encourage families not to pressure their kids to be baptized, but also not to hold them back if they express a desire and have a personal faith in Jesus.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** Some falsely believe being baptized earns you a ticket to heaven. How does Ephesians 2:8-9 correct this false belief? Read Romans 10:9-10 to understand what truly saves someone from sin and gives them eternal life with God.
- Read the Gospel accounts of the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:24-34).** What stands out to you about John the Baptist's reaction to Jesus? What did Jesus' baptism demonstrate to John and others who witnessed it? What does Jesus' baptism demonstrate to you?
- Read Matthew 28:18-20.** In Jesus' final words to His disciples, Jesus calls them to make disciples, baptize and teach them all He had taught them. What is the connection between baptism and discipleship/spiritual growth?
- If you have been baptized, take a few moments and share the details of your baptism.** When, where and what made you decide to be baptized then? How has your baptism impacted your Christian life? If you haven't been baptized, be honest with what is holding you back. How can the group encourage you to take this next step in your life with Jesus?