

Faith Community Church's Position on Biblical Baptism

Baptism can be a topic of division within a church but at FCC, we see biblical baptism as the public expression of a believer's identifying with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as with the Body of Christ. It is one of two ordinances that Jesus Christ instituted for the church (the other is the Lord's Table). Spiritual regeneration is what leads to being "born again" where those who have died in Christ and risen with Christ demonstrate this miraculous work of God through public baptism as they join the Body of Christ through salvation (John 3:3; 5:24; 2nd Cor. 5:17). It is through biblical baptism that we now identify with all who are of the Body and one in Christ. We believe and practice:

#1: Baptism directly identifies with the Lord Jesus Christ and separates the redeemed from the rest of the unsaved world. It is completely symbolic in expressing our spiritual unity in Christ while publicly allowing the world around us to see the unity we share as God's people. It dramatically illustrates the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ—death to our sin and new life in Jesus. Biblical baptism says, "I am a fellow Christian, follower of Jesus Christ, and a part of his Body, the Church." Baptism symbolizes Christ's work of grace but does not confer grace in the act itself (John 1:16-17; Rom. 6:3-6; 1st Cor. 12:13)

#2: Baptism *does not* save anyone from their sins but proclaims and declares the reality of salvation. Baptism does not provide for, guarantee, or grant salvation in any way but demonstrates publicly the spiritual rebirth which has occurred by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-7; Romans 5:1).

#3: Baptism is both a personal acknowledgement and public announcement. The individual being baptized is publicly confessing their sin and their need for a Savior. Biblical baptism symbolizes the placing of an individual's full faith and trust in the Saving Gospel by God's grace. The spiritually regenerate individual is committing their life through the public act of biblical baptism to faithfully follow Jesus (Rom. 1:16-17; 2nd Tim. 1:8; 1st John 5:10). As an embassy of heaven on earth, the Church baptizes heaven's newest citizens (Matt. 28:18-20; Phil 3:20). This is the unifying purpose of baptism—to bring together through the same spiritual reality by the same covenant, public, biblical baptism as believers in Christ.

#4: Baptism comes *after* conversion and spiritual rebirth. New believers are baptized *after* they believe. People hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17). People's hearts are spiritually regenerated (2nd Cor. 4:6). People are baptized (Acts. 18:8). Baptism does not save; faith in Jesus Christ saves. Baptism serves as the visual means by which an individual makes their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 8:26-38; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:3-6).