



GENESIS CHURCH

WATER BAPTISM

We believe that water baptism was instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself – not as a means of salvation, but as an outward sign of the salvation each believer has by grace through faith in Christ. We believe that water baptism is a first step by which believers publicly affirm their faith in Christ. We therefore seek to uphold the biblical example of water baptism – that is, water baptism by immersion for those who intentionally placed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We recognize that there are different views about water baptism than what we believe and teach at Genesis Church. Every example of water baptism in the Bible consists of individuals who have trusted in Jesus by grace through faith and are obeying His first command, to be baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have experienced water baptism as an infant or were baptized prior to trusting in Jesus by grace through faith, we would love to have the opportunity to help you take your next steps towards water baptism.

Our desire is to help every believer at Genesis Church follow Jesus in the black and white teachings of the Bible. Therefore, *water baptism after coming to know Jesus as one's personal Lord and Savior is a requirement for becoming a Partner*, as it is the first commandment given by Jesus to His disciples and was the first act of obedience upheld by the early church as seen in the Bible. As such, water baptism provides believers with the great honor and privilege to follow Jesus by publicly declaring that he or she stands with Jesus and will continue to walk with Him by faith. We ask that our Partners please respect this official position on water baptism as it is a non-negotiable issue that we seek to help those at Genesis Church follow so that they may put the whole Bible into practice.

We recognize that there may be a variety of fears, concerns, and/or reservations one may have regarding water baptism. These fears may include, but are not limited to, being part of a faith tradition that adheres to a different view of water baptism than the view laid herein, a fear of feeling that one has an inadequate understanding of water baptism as laid out in the Bible, and/or a fear of being baptized publicly during our Sunday morning gathering.

We are more than happy to discuss our theological stance and practical application of baptism and what that looks like in your life. If you would like to discuss any of these things further or if you are interested in being baptized, please email baptism@genesisyork.com and one of our designated ministry leaders will follow up with you. We are excited to see what God is doing in your life as you journey with Him!

Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 2:37-41, 8:26-38, 9:9-10, 10:37-38, 16:11-15, 25-34; Romans 6:1-4