



Chelsea Community  
Church of Christ and  
Care Works  
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Chelsea



## Who Should be Baptised?

**Baptism is for Believers:** Churches of Christ maintain that baptism is for those who believe in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe for themselves.

**Matthew 28:19 says “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

**Acts 28:19 says “Repent and be baptized, every one of you.**

**The Word Baptism comes from the original Greek word “BAPTIZO” meaning to immerse or dip under and therefore it is essential that in baptism a person is fully immersed or dipped under water.**

**The Baptism of Jesus:** John the Baptist had a ministry of calling men and women to repentance and signifying the reality of that repentance by being immersed in the Jordan River.

**Jesus was baptised by John—He was fully immersed.  
Matthew 3:13-17**

## What is Baptism?

Baptism is the complete immersion into water of those who have confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as God’s Son and their Saviour. However, it is more than just immersion—it has a number of significant meanings.

### **It is a symbol of our experience.**

Baptism is the symbol of our identification with Christ and an outward sign of our inner experience. It represents a change of heart and lifestyle.

In baptism we associate ourselves with Christ’s death and resurrection. We are saying that we believe in Christ’s death to save us from the consequences of our sin and that we believe in His resurrection. He is alive and has become a part of our lives today.

We also declare something has happened to us. We have died to our old lifestyle. We don’t want to live our self-centred life any more. We want to be new people following the new directions Christ has for us. Now we want to live His way and do His will.

It must be understood that there is nothing magical in baptism. Baptism is the symbol of change of heart—it does not cause a change of heart—Jesus does that.

In Romans 6 Paul writes of our being **:buried with Him through baptism into death** when our **old self was crucified with Him.**

Then he adds **that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**

## Why be Baptized?

### To follow Christ's example.

**Mark 1:9** "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John the Baptist."

As Jesus was sinless He had no need to repent. We may assume that the reason for His baptism then was to set an example that we should follow.

### To enjoy God's approval.

Immediately following Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened and a voice was heard to say: "**This is My beloved Son, who I love, with Him I am well pleased.**" **Matt 3:17.**

The Father was giving His approval of Jesus and His baptism. Our baptism too, will have the approval of God the Father.

### To be obedient to Christ.

**Mark 16:15-16:** "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

We would be unfaithful to our divine task if we were not encouraging people to obey the Lord's commands.

### To experience the reality of Christ.

Obedience to the commands of Jesus leads to a greater awareness of His presence in our lives.

**John 14:21** "whoever has my commands and obeys them, He is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father and I too will love Him and sow myself to Him."

### It is an act of obedience.

It is way of showing God that when we say "Jesus is my Lord" we mean it. Jesus commanded us to go make disciples...baptise them....teach them to obey...

**Matthew 28:19-20**

In order to fulfil that clear command, we continue to call people to believe in Jesus Christ and to obey Him by being baptised. This must then lead into a whole lifetime of trusting Christ and obeying Him.

Those who really love the Lord Jesus Christ will have a deep desire to obey Him, As they do, He will become more real to them. **John 14:21**

### It is a declaration of faith.

Faith is something we must declare openly. Baptism is one way of declaring our faith. It is faith that brings the grace of God into operation in our lives.

**Ephesians 2:8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.

However, faith must always lead to action. Baptism is an active expression of faith or faith in action.

### It is an entrance into the Church

Baptism is the sacrament chosen by our Lord Jesus Christ to demonstrate our admission as new members into His Church. It is the way we are seen to become part of the family of God. **I Corinthians 12:12-13**

**The Next Step:** Now that you believe Jesus Christ is God's Son, that He died as a sacrifice for your sin, and rose again to be your Saviour and Lord, you are ready to be baptized.

For further information or to find out more please call Pastor Judi on 0423 375 714 or drop into the Church.