

# WHAT IS BAPTISM?

## FULLERTON FREE BELIEVES . . .

- Water baptism is an ordinance given by Christ to His church. (Matthew 28:19)
- Baptism by immersion is the mode used by Christ and the early church (Matthew 13-16, Acts 8:35-39).
- Water baptism is to be observed in the present age. (Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:14-15)
- Water baptism is not to be regarded as a means of salvation. It is a public act by those who have already received Christ as their personal savior. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 8:36-38)

## BAPTISM IS . . .

- A symbol of the believer's identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. (Romans 6:3-7)
- A public testimony of one who has received Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior. (Acts 8:36-38, 16:14-15)
- An act of obedience modeled and commanded by Jesus Christ. (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19)
- A statement to the world that the individual being baptized is dedicated to Christ and desires to follow Him (Acts 8:36-38, 16:14-15).

Baptism is important because it is commanded by Jesus. As we participate in baptism, we join in a rich biblical tradition. Throughout the Bible, God uses water as a picture of his redemptive work. Keeping the large scope of water's Biblical significance in mind helps us understand the power of this symbolic act. The following Scriptures help communicate this significance: Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 6:11-14, Exodus 14:19-30, Ezekiel 36:24-25, Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:19-20.

## SUMMARY: SO WHAT'S THE POINT?

The Scriptures in the Old and New Testament reveal how God uses water to represent His creative and redemptive work in the world, climaxing in the work of Jesus, revealed in baptism.

## WHAT'S THE RELEVANCE OF BAPTISM TO THE FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's redemptive work accomplished by the cross and the resurrection. Through belief in Christ and his work, your old self is buried and your new self is raised. This death to life picture is symbolized as you are immersed in the water and raised up out of the waters.

# ***BAPTISM FAITH STORY***

Name:

In your own words, briefly explain what it means to become a Christian:

How did you become a Christian?

In your own words, why do you want to be baptized?

How do you think baptism will affect your life?

From the Scriptures on the previous page, what is most significant for you in understanding the beauty of baptism? How can your own baptism remind you of what Jesus has done on your behalf?

Do you have questions about baptism?