

## What is Baptism?

Baptism is one of those issues that people have come to different understandings and practices over time. What is baptism, who is it for, and what does all that mean to you and me, anyway? My effort here is not to make division, or to challenge others, but just to understand what God's Word says. We must be Biblical or we are only giving the teachings and traditions of man, not the ways of god.

Baptism is done for a very simple reason; Jesus commanded it. In the command that is known as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, He has commanded us to go into all the world and make disciples. Once a person is a disciple, we are, as a church, to do two things. We are to baptize them and to teach them the basics of the faith.

It is here that we see the key issue in baptism--who is it for? Jesus commanded that baptism is for disciples, those who have made a commitment by faith to Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. This is called believer's baptism, meaning it is for those who have come to faith. That is why we don't practice infant baptism. If baptism is for disciples, then as a church, we are to baptize those who have a profession of faith. Baptism doesn't make a person a believer, it has no power to bring change into a life, it does not seal salvation, it does not anticipate salvation. It is a lot like a wedding ring; it is a physical symbol of the unbreakable bond of the marriage covenant. It doesn't make one married, it is just an expression.

Baptism is the outer sign of what has already happened spiritually to the believer, as Romans 6:1-10 illustrates. As the person is buried in the water, he or she is showing that he or she has been crucified with Christ. As they rise from the water, they show they now have His resurrection life. They are publicly identified with Him, Jesus, and His church. It is a wonderful moment of public identification, confession, and witness. It is for all believers, and we urge you, if you have not done so, to be baptized.

Also, we find in the Word and New Testament practice, the method for baptism. The word baptism is really an ordinary Greek word that has been anglicized. The word means to be immersed. If it were really translated, the word immersed would be used. It isn't because when Bible was translated into English, the Church of England wasn't immersing, only sprinkling. It is also clear that immersion was the New Testament practice.

So, if you are a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, what is keeping you from baptism?

*From Pastor Byron MacDonald's Pastor's Chat*

# Junior High Baptism

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Jr. High Ministry  
Rolling Hills Covenant Church  
2222 Palos Verdes Drive North  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
310.521.2533

## Dear Jr High Student!

We are offering Baptisms this year in Jr. High on Wednesday, May 18th in the Worship Center at 6:00pm. I know the Lord will use your preparation and Baptism to bring growth in your life and to be a testimony of Christ to your family and friends.

### Application and Orientation

Any student who wishes to be Baptized must fill out the Water Baptism application enclosed and mail it in or drop it off in the Student Ministries office. This application form will help you as you think through what it means to publicly declare your total dedication to following Christ. Also, you have to attend the **mandatory Baptism talk given through the 2nd year D/C on March 9th**. At this orientation, you will learn more about Baptism and how to prepare your heart.

### Interview

Once your application is filled out, you can sign up for an interview with the Pastor of Jr. High. These interviews are 15 minutes and simply a chance to dialogue about your decision, to make sure you are ready. But remember, **no application, no interview**. At the end of the interview

your Baptism slot will be confirmed. Spots are limited, so the earlier you interview, the better chances of getting in.

### Testimony Preparation

At the Baptism service, you will share 2-3 minutes about your relationship with Christ. We offer helpful handouts at D/C to help you prepare your testimony that you will give in front of the audience. You can meet with your D/C leader and staff to help develop your testimony.

### Heart preparation

Your decision to be Baptized is a significant commitment to your growth in Christ, and is a public confession of your faith in Christ. Make it a point to prepare yourself before you get Baptized by reading the Bible, praying, and asking that God's presence and power will be made real to you and everyone who attends.

### For your Baptism Service Bring:

Girls will want to wear a bathing suit with a dark colored T-Shirt and shorts over it. Guys will need to wear boardshorts and a dark T-Shirt. There is a changing room for you to change into your bathing suit just before the Baptism. Leave your valuable possessions like watches, necklaces, etc. at home.

### Post Baptism

For those who get Baptised, we want to welcome your new identity into the body of Christ at RHCC. **All students must attend the Sunday morning 9:30 and 11:15am services on May 22** where you will be recognized and prayed over by the congregation. We will also visit the Voyagers class that morning for prayer and affirmation.

### Who Should Get Baptized?

↔ Anyone who has put their full trust for salvation in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

↔ Anyone who has not yet followed Jesus in the step of Baptism.

↔ Anyone who desires to declare their faith in front of a crowd of friends and families, letting them know their commitment to following Jesus.

↔ Anyone who wants to let the world know that Jesus is Lord and that they can also find salvation in Christ.

### *Are all these true of you?*

Then what are you waiting for...get Baptized!

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY  
WATER BAPTISM APPLICATION

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you attended RHCC?

Why do you desire to be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly write out your understanding of Jesus, the reason he died on the cross, and when this became real for you?

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If you were to leave this life today, what would happen to you and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Take time to fill out this Water Baptism Application and bring it to your interview or drop it off at any junior high event. If you have any questions, please call the student ministries church office: 310-521-2533.