MEANING OF BAPTISM

1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

    "Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." – ***1 Cor 15:3-4***

    "For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." – ***Col 2:12***

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

    "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" – ***2 Cor 5:17***

    "By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!" – ***Rom 6:4***

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." – ***Eph 2:8-9***

Why Be Baptised by Immersion?

1. Because Jesus was baptised that way.

    "As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." – ***Matt 3:16***

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

    Eg. *"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..."* – ***Acts 8:38-39***

3. The Greek word *"Baptise"* means *"To immerse or dip under water"*.
    It best symbolised a burial and resurrection!

Why Should We Be Baptised?

"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptised..." – ***Acts 2:41***

"Simon himself believed and was baptised..." – ***Acts 8:13***

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women." – ***Acts 8:12***

Why Should We Be Baptised?

At Fourways Community Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptise them. Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. At Fourways Community Church, it is a partnership requirement that every partner must have been baptised the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were "confirmed" as children.

When Should I Be Baptised?

As soon as you have believed.

"Those who believe...were baptized...that day!" – **Acts 2:41**

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptised right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptised him." – **Acts 8:35-38**

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you **can** and **should** be baptized. If you wait until you are *"perfect"*, you'll never feel *"good enough"*!

Why Is It So Important To Be Baptised?

1. To follow the example set by **Christ.**

   "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised by John in the river." – **Matt 28:18**

2. Because Christ **commands** it!

   "Jesus said, 'Go then, to all the people everywhere and make them disciples, baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." – **Matt 28:19-20**

3. It demonstrates that I really am a **believer.**

   "...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptised" – **Acts 18:8**