

In Session 2 we will answer the question What is Baptism? We will ask if you affirm our Statement of Belief and will abide by our Constitution.

What is Baptism?

Believer baptism, by full immersion (under water), is an outward symbol of an inward reality. In baptism we identify with Jesus Christ and His Church.

¹ What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? ² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Romans 6:1-5

What does it mean to die to sin? Have you died to sin? (2)

What does the word baptism mean? (3a)

How is believer baptism an outward symbol of an inward reality? (3b-4)

How does baptism identify us with Jesus? (5)

The Greek word baptizo means 'immerse'. Baptism is an act of immersion in water (Mk 1:10; Ac 8:36, 38). Only those who have believed that Jesus died for their sins, rose from the grave and have repented are to be baptised, as a precursor to church membership (Ac 2:36-41; 16:29-34).

Believer baptism symbolizes identification with Jesus Christ and His Church in obedience to Him as Lord (Ro 6:3-4).

Believer baptism is not a step of salvation. It is an outward symbol of an inward reality which we are commanded to go through (Mt 28:18-20).

Fill in and Return

- I have been baptised as a believer by full immersion.
- I would like to be baptised as a believer by full immersion.

For Further Study

Baptism Debate (MacArthur and Sproul) - <https://tinyurl.com/yad4bule>

What is our Statement of Belief?

Our elders teach according to the the [Sola 5 Confession of Faith](#). The elders have brought the [2017 Statement of Belief](#) (follow this link for Scripture references to each article) to our members for adoption.

1. We believe that the Holy Scriptures consist of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments in their original writing; that the Spirit of God so influenced the authors that these writings are the Word of God; that because of the divine origin and inspiration of its words, the Scriptures are true in all that they affirm and are trustworthy and without error; that these Scriptures are the complete and only written revelation of God to people; that every translation that is faithful to the originals and responsibly interpreted clearly reveals those truths necessary for our salvation, godly living, and maturity in Christ; and that Scripture alone is our sufficient and final authority in all matters of belief and practice.
2. We believe in one God who eternally exists in three co-equal persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that though each divine person is fully and equally God, they differ in relationship towards each other and their work in the world; that this triune God is perfect and infinite in His being and attributes – an all-holy, all-loving, and all-wise Sovereign; that from before creation, God determined to save sinners through the sacrifice of His Son, to govern all history according to His sovereign plan and to finally bring all things under one head, even Christ; and that all things exist from Him, through Him, and for Him, and are created to display the glory of His wonderful Name.
3. We believe that in the beginning God sovereignly created all things visible and invisible and took delight in it all; that He created humankind male and female as his image bearers, endowing each with a dignity of equal worth and calling to govern and care for His creation; that human life is sacred to God and begins at conception, and should not be unnecessarily terminated at any stage; that God created marriage to be an exclusive and lifelong union between a natural man and a natural woman, giving the man the responsibility of loving leadership and the woman the role of compatible support; that the first man Adam sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual, for all people, and as a consequence of his sin, all humans inherit a sinful nature, which results in actual transgression and personal guilt.
4. We believe that when the time was right, the eternal Son of God took on human nature, and was made like us in every way, yet without sin; that, after being conceived by the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary, was named Jesus (meaning ‘God saves’), and from conception was and always will be fully God and

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fully man in one person; and that He is, therefore, the perfect and only mediator between God and people.

5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, was perfectly obedient to His Father in every way, and ushered in the promised Kingdom of God in all His words and deeds; that, for the joy set before Him, He offered up Himself as the perfect substitutionary and atoning sacrifice for sinners, triumphing over sin, death, and all the forces of evil, and purchasing for Himself a people out of every tribe, language, and nation; that on the cross the Son of God received in His person the due penalty of God's wrath against our sin, and that His shed blood is the sole basis for our salvation and the greatest revelation of the glory of the grace of our God.

6. We believe that the Lord Jesus was crucified, buried, and on the third day was resurrected bodily from the dead and glorified as the first-fruits of God's new creation; that he ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father as ruler over all things; that He presently intercedes as High Priest and Advocate for all who draw near to God through Him; and that He will return personally, visibly, and gloriously to judge the living and the dead.

7. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Lord, the giver of life, who formed the world, empowered certain individuals for God's purposes, and who speaks in the Holy Scriptures; that God anointed Jesus Christ with the Spirit for His ministry and that the Spirit was given to the Church at Pentecost to indwell, lead, and unite believers, gifting each of them for various works of service; that the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, gives understanding of the Word, convicts people of their sin, unites believers to Jesus, and forms the character of Christ within them; and that the Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts, enables prayer and witness, and seals the believer for the day of the redemption of their bodies.

8. We believe that through the call of God in the Gospel message, all who receive Christ Jesus as Saviour and Lord are born again by the Holy Spirit, becoming a new creation in Christ; that through faith in Him, sinners have the forgiveness of sins and are declared righteous on the grounds of His shed blood; that repentance is a condition of this salvation and the first sign of that holiness without which no one will see the Lord; that by virtue of their union with Christ, believers share in all the benefits of grace that are in Him, including the adoption as sons and the gift of the Holy Spirit; and that all who turn from their sin, trusting Christ, may have the assurance that they will be kept and accepted by Him.

9. We believe that the Church is the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, reconciled to the Father, and thereby to each other; that this Church is the people of God, the body

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of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, through whom God's purpose in history is made known; that the local church, as a manifestation of the universal Church, is a community of believers in a particular place where God's Word is preached and practiced, the two ordinances are observed, and church discipline is exercised; that in the local church both men and women are called to serve equally, and male headship should be evidenced; and that each local church is ruled by Jesus Christ, governed by its members, led by its shepherds, and served by its deacons.

10. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ appointed two ordinances – Baptism and the Lord's Supper – to be observed as acts of obedience and as witnesses to the primary facts of the Christian faith; that Baptism is the immersion of a professing believer in water as a confession of identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection; and that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and the cup, signifying our participation in the Saviour's body and shed blood in remembrance of His death until He comes.

11. We believe that the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all people groups in all places through the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to plant and establish local churches to obey all that Jesus taught the Apostles; that in loving our neighbour as ourselves, compassionately, practically and wisely, we image the love of God to all; and that we should do all this according to the Scriptures, under the shadow of the Cross and in the power of the resurrection.

12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous; that all people will appear before God's judgement seat to receive their due for the things done while in the body; that those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter into eternal life, but the unrighteous into eternal condemnation; and that according to God's promise we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, when we will forever be with the Lord, and He with us: Come Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

Fill in and Return

I affirm Crystal Park Baptist Church's Statement of Belief.

I will abide by Crystal Park Baptist Church Benoni's Constitution.

Name

Signature

For Further Study

Our Constitution - <https://tinyurl.com/yyujbbju>