



## What We Believe - Baptism

Jesus instructed his disciples to baptize all who received the gospel message (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15-16). The apostles and others in the early church obeyed this command faithfully (e.g., see Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Acts 10:47-48). In fact, they were so anxious to baptize believers that the time of day and the location seemed of little consequence (e.g., see Acts 16:25-33; Acts 8:36-38).

There are those in the body of Christ who believe and teach what is commonly referred to as “baptismal regeneration” (i.e., one is not saved until he has confessed Christ as Savior *and* been baptized). We do not believe that this view is supported by Scripture, but we affirm that **baptism is an important step of obedience to the command of Christ.**

**What is the significance of baptism?** Baptism acknowledges and affirms

**1. *The spiritual burial and resurrection which takes place when one receives Jesus Christ*** (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12). The Greek word translated “baptize” means to dip or immerse. This definition, coupled with the burial analogy offered in the above passages, indicates that the style of baptism practiced by Christ and his disciples was full immersion in water (as opposed to the sprinkling practiced by some church groups today).

**2. *The washing away of our sins*** (Acts 22:15-16; 1 Peter 3:20-21). Baptism, then, is **an outward manifestation of what has taken place inwardly** – the cleansing of our hearts from sin.

Some churches encourage parents to have their infants baptized (sprinkled) “into the faith”. The intent of this practice is completely honorable, and many outstanding Christians endorse it. However, there is no clear Scriptural precedent for baptizing infants. Therefore, at MVCC we choose to baptize only those who have expressed personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**Have you accepted Christ? If so, you should be baptized at your earliest opportunity!**

Baptism classes are offered \_\_\_\_\_

To sign up to be baptized please contact \_\_\_\_\_

Baptisms are done 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 9:30 and 11:30 service.