



Woodside Bible Fellowship

BAPTISM

It is the position of Woodside that every person who has placed his/her trust in Christ as their own Savior from sin and Lord of their life should be baptized as an act of personal obedience. It glorifies God. At Jesus' baptism the Father spoke, "this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased". Every person who has trusted Christ personally to be their Savior and Lord should eagerly and gladly be baptized, out of loving obedience to Christ and to be a witness to all those watching, who have experienced His saving grace.

Woodside believes that the meaning of baptism determines the mode of baptism, literally and symbolically. Jesus gave His followers a very beautiful and dramatic way of identifying with Him by being buried and raised up out of the water. Water baptism is a powerful symbol of the burial and resurrection of Christ.

As Paul wrote in Romans 6:4, "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life." Water baptism is a beautiful picture of what a convert has experienced in Jesus in leaving a dead life of sin (buried) and living a new life of following Christ (raised). By being baptized a believer is demonstrating that they have cut ties with a past of complacent sin and are determined to live a new life of following Christ. Woodside believes the proper mode of baptism is immersion.

Woodside believes that the New Testament teaches that those who were baptized were believers. They were old enough to express their own personal repentance of sin and faith in Christ. Baptism is always for converts who are believers. It is a dramatic act of obedience that follows conversion. Remember, it is your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and His payment for your sins in full, that saves you. not baptism. Baptism shows the meaning of salvation and what a believer already possesses.

Woodside teaches believers baptism by immersion. At the same time, we recognize that 1) salvation does not depend on baptism and 2) some who attend Woodside were baptized as an infant or sprinkled as a believer.

As baptism is a step of obedience for a believer, we encourage any who have not taken this step to do so. It will be a blessing to them and an encouragement to others.

Membership

Should an individual, who was baptized by another mode, wish to be a member of Woodside, membership will be determined by the elders on a case by case basis. If an individual is a believer but has never been baptized, we would encourage that individual to wait until such time as they are comfortable with this teaching, before applying for membership.

If an individual is a believer and was baptized as an infant, and is not comfortable with Woodside's teaching, we encourage them to discuss this with the elders, who will consider the issue on a case by case basis.

To summarize, baptism is not required for salvation. It is by faith alone. But we believe scripture teaches that as an act of obedience, believers be baptized.

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