

## Position Paper #3 Baptism

### **What is baptism?**

Baptism is the public expression of faith declaring a person has trusted Christ for their eternal salvation. It symbolizes our union with Christ in His death and our being raised from the grave to a new life through Him. 1 Peter 3:21, Romans 6:2-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17

### **Why baptism?**

First and foremost, it is commanded of all new believers by Christ Himself be baptized immediately after conversion. This is actually the first test of His Lordship over our lives. Secondly, we follow Jesus in baptism who set the example for us by being baptized Himself at the beginning of His earthly ministry. Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 3:21-22

### **Who can be baptized?**

The only people that the Bible qualifies as candidates for baptism are those who upon having heard the gospel of Christ have made an informed free will decision to repent of sin and trust Christ as their only hope of salvation while choosing to relinquish the Lordship of their lives to Him. Acts 8:36-38, Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 28:19-20

### **When can a person be baptized?**

The Bible clearly teaches that only those who are capable of being convicted of sin by God's Spirit and making the free will choice to repent of their sin and trust Christ atoning death on the cross for their eternal salvation are qualified for believer's baptism. The Lamb's Chapel does not participate in the unscriptural practices of infant baptism or proxy baptism for the already deceased. John 6:44, John 16:7-10, Acts 2:36-39

Numerous religious groups set a minimum age at which children are allowed to be baptized. This also is unscriptural. The Bible sets no such minimum age. Regarding children and their readiness for baptism we request that they meet with our children's pastor to review a scriptural explanation of what baptism is and to determine if indeed the Holy Spirit is drawing them to their Savior. Acts 8:35-37