

ELDER POSITION PAPER ON BAPTISM

Crossroads Community Church practices what is called “Believers Baptism.” Believers baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolized by the public declaration of the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior and the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

WHY DOES CROSSROADS BAPTIZE THROUGH IMMERSION?

The word for “baptize” in Greek is “*baptizo*,” which means “to dip, plunge, submerge, or immerse.” Therefore, the Greek word “*baptizo*” itself teaches that neither pouring, nor sprinkling, constitutes baptism. Immersion is the logical expression of the word itself. To be baptized means to be immersed and so we practice full body immersion.

DOES THE ACT OF BAPTISM SAVE A PERSON?

No, there is no such thing as baptismal regeneration. There is no work that man can do to save himself. Salvation is by faith alone, in Christ alone and is offered as a free gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9).

Baptism in the New Testament was first seen in relation to the ministry of John the Baptist. Like believers baptism today, John's baptism was symbolic of one's public repentance from sin and of a willingness to participate in the kingdom of God (Matt. 3:6-8; Luke 3:3-16). In addition, the believers baptism is a public declaration and symbol of what Jesus did to save us. Crossroads even proclaims as a person is being baptized “buried with Christ in death and raised to newness of life with Christ.”

IS BAPTISM A SACRAMENT OR ORDINANCE OF THE CHURCH?

Believers baptism is not a sacrament but rather an ordinance of the church. Simply stated baptism is commanded (ordinance) once a person is saved but is not a means of grace or salvation (sacrament). Being a church ordinance, believers baptism is listed as a prerequisite for Crossroad's Family Membership. This is clearly taught in the “Life at Crossroads” classes for family membership.

The New Testament never speaks of an “unbaptized believer” therefore Crossroads strongly encourages all believers to be baptized out of obedience once they have been saved. Therefore, those sprinkled as children should now be baptized as a believers to declare their confession of sin and saving faith not their parents or family's belief system.

HOW DOES BAPTISMS HAPPEN AT CROSSROADS?

Crossroads offers baptism classes and baptisms multiple times during the year. If you were baptized as a believer through immersion at another like-minded church we would acknowledge your prior baptism in the Crossroads Family Membership process. If, as an adult believer you were sprinkled or poured upon, we would ask you to be baptized.

If you are interested in being baptized please reach out to the church office at (661)775-9502 or info@lifeatcrossroads.org