

BCC Policy: Baptism Required for Membership

Approved October 6, 2016

1. We believe that baptism is an ordinance of the Lord by which those who have repented and come to faith express their union with Christ in His death and resurrection, by being immersed in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It symbolizes burial and cleansing, signifying death to the old life of unbelief, and purification from the pollution of sin. Baptism does not bring about salvation, but it is an expected public profession of faith in Christ.
2. The official position of BCC is that only baptism by immersion of believers will be taught and practiced by the church. A requirement for membership in BCC is baptism by immersion as a believer.
3. However, Christians who have not been baptized by immersion as believers, but by some other method or before they believed, may under exceptional circumstances be members of BCC. Such individuals may be eligible for membership if they are able to defend to the elders their conviction that it would violate their conscience to be baptized by immersion as believers, based on a Scripturally-based argument. This conviction must not be based on mere adherence to tradition or family expectations. The elders will make all judgments in accepting candidates for membership. All candidates for membership, even when holding firmly to views different from the official position of the elders, must demonstrate a humble and teachable disposition with respect to the church leadership.
4. We will not admit into membership persons who refuse to practice any form of baptism at all, or who believe that their water baptism caused their regeneration. The former is a serious rejection of the Lord's commandment, and the latter is a serious misunderstanding of the work of the Holy Spirit.