

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

In the New Testament it is clear that when new converts were converted, they were baptised and immediately welcomed into the fellowship of the local body of Christ.

⁴¹ Then those who gladly^[g] received his word were baptised; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church^[h] daily those who were being saved.

With this in mind, following Georgina's baptism, we will lead the congregation in prayer thanking God for adding Georgina to this church at this time and for the gifts that He has given her for use in His service. We will pray that we as a fellowship will be given the grace to support Georgina in her early days of discipleship to Christ.

Then, in a couple of weeks at our next Communion service, the church family will formally welcome Georgina into the fellowship and present her with her membership motto card

Believer's Baptism

And

Church Membership

Matthew 28:19

You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Background

We believe the Bible teaches that we are born alienated from God by sin for time and eternity. The essence of sin is “I’ll live my life my way and not God’s way”

The Bible tells us that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself as He suffered death on Calvary’s cross. There Jesus bore the punishment and desolation for the sin of His people.

He rose on the third day demonstrating that He had completed the work of salvation and taken the sting of sin from death for those who would trust in Him.

In being “dipped”, as the original word means, the believer declares that they believe that Christ bore the penalty for their sins, that they identify with His death and resurrection and profess that they have died to sin and now will seek to live for Christ.

For the believer it is now no longer “I’ll live my life my way” but “I’ll live my life His way.”

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Baptism is an act of obedient discipleship commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ and performed in the name of the Triune God (Matthew 28:18-20). It symbolises the following:

- Repentance
- Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Confession of his Lordship
- Union with the Lord Jesus Christ in his death, burial and resurrection
- Admittance into God's family, the church, the body of Christ.
- The desire to live a new life of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit

Baptism is a public act in which believers identify themselves with the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour and Lord who died and rose for them.