

southcitychurch

Water baptism (**Matt 3:6,11,13-16; Mark 1:5-9; Lk 3:16,21; John 1:26,33**) is intended only for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become his disciple (**Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:44-48; 16:14-15, 32-33; 1 Cor 1:16; Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12; Gal 3:27**). Therefore, in obedience to Christ's command (**Matt 3:15; 28:19; Acts 2:38**) and as a testimony to God, the Church, oneself, and the world, a believer should be immersed in water (**Matt 3:16; Mark 1:5,10; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12**) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (**Matt 28:19**). Water baptism is a visual demonstration (**Rom 6:3**) of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of his death and resurrection (**Rom 6:4-5**). It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death, and vividly depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin (**Rom 6:6-11**). As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ (**1 Cor 10:17; 11:29-30**). This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of his blood on our behalf (**Matt 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-25**), and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death (**Matt 26:27-29; 1 Cor 10:16, 21**). As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith (**Heb 10:22**) and self-examination (**1 Cor 11:28**), we remember (**1 Cor 11:25**) and proclaim the death of Christ (**1 Cor 11:26**), receive spiritual nourishment for our souls (**John 6:53-57**), and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body (**1 Cor 10:17**).

IMPLICATIONS:

In accordance with God's commands, we seek to be baptized as close as possible to the time that we have come to faith in Christ, as a public proclamation, and sign of our union with Christ. We also gladly participate in the Lord's Supper with our brothers and sisters in Christ, taking it as an opportunity to examine ourselves, repent of sin, make amends with our fellow Christians, and celebrate what Christ has done to redeem us all from sin.