

Garden of Eden (GOE) Church on Baptism

Christian baptism is a sacrament that identifies a person as a believer in Jesus Christ as their personal savior. It is an outward expression of the belief that Jesus died to take away our sins and was raised for our justification (*Romans 4:25 "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification"*), that we are worthy of death because of our sins but that Jesus died for us, taking our place in judgement, and was raised so that we could put our trust in him, and that we are dedicating our life to live for Him with all others who have done the same.

If you have not already accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, we invite you to do so now by following the the "Romans Road to Salvation":

- Recognize that you are a sinner. *Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- Understand that sinners may not enter into eternal life and fellowship with a perfect and holy God. *Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death; "*
- Believe that God wants to cleanse you from all your sin so that you may spend eternity with Him. *Romans 6:23b "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
- Take God at His word and accept His gift of eternal life through faith in his only Son Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *Romans 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Baptism is an obedient response to this belief in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- Believing in the life of Jesus, accredited by God with many miracles, wonders, and signs, given that we might know for sure that he really was who he said he was: the Son of God.
- Believing that Jesus died because it was God's plan for our salvation, meaning for the price to be paid for our sins so that we could be forgiven.
- Believing that God raised Jesus from the dead to be the Messiah whose kingdom would never end. This is the first and a picture of a new birth out of death. God's new creation begins in Jesus and in our hearts as we believe and receive the regenerating Holy Spirit.

If you are just now a newborn Christian or you have followed Jesus for many years it is important to celebrate your new life in Christ by being baptized. Baptism can be a first-time declaration of faith, or it can be the reaffirmation of faith of a life being lived for Jesus.

Baptism is a public declaration that:

- You are a follower of Jesus Christ.
- You are beginning or continuing to live a changed life in Christ.
- You are part of the great family of Christian believers.

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not "save" you; only your faith in Christ does that.

Ephesians 2:8-9 8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

God's gospel promise is to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice finished on the cross.

Here at the Garden of Eden Church we are happy to celebrate with you by officiating in a baptism service. Because we believe that Jesus was baptized nude and that nude baptism was common for many years in the early church, we perform all baptisms with all participants being nude.

We believe that nothing symbolizes this rebirth better than fully stripping off your old nature (along with your clothes) before you enter the water and then rising nude from the water with the past burden of sin washed away to a new life beginning or reaffirmed. Additionally, we believe that nude worship brings us before the Lord in a special and unique way that serves to remind us that God always sees us naked in mind, body, and spirit; we hide nothing from him.

By seeking, and participating in, a nude baptism service here at the Garden of Eden church you are declaring that you believe these things and that you intend to live your life as Christ lived his, in service to others.

Galatians 5:13 "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Please know that the Garden of Eden Church worship team leads by example by being nude whenever possible as we believe that being nude literally strips us of the pretense that so often accompanies clothing. If you are interested in being baptized nude please contact anyone on the worship team so we can schedule a baptism service for you.