

Children and Baptism at Watermark

Scriptural Basis:

- Leviticus 14:1-18 The Law regarding a cleansed leper
- Matt 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-44 The Law is used once in Scripture
- Acts 22:15,16; 8:12,13; 8:34-38 New Testament Examples
Matt 28:19-20

Watermark's Belief Statement:

SECTION 10: THE ORDINANCES OF BAPTISM

We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which are to be observed by believers until He returns (Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

We believe by water baptism a believer is publicly identified with his Savior and that infants of believing parents may be dedicated to the Lord but should not be baptized until they can personally articulate their faith and the purpose of baptism.

What would be expected before a child is baptized?

- Child Initiated – As baptism is a personal expression of one's love and identification with Christ, it is expected that this is a spiritual conviction of the child not driven by the parent. It should be an event that is primarily meaningful to the *child*.
- The child will know what baptism is: a symbolic display, a public display, a counter-cultural statement.
- The child will know what baptism is not: an action that leads to salvation, something "cool" to do, a membership requirement.
- The child will be able to share the gospel with someone including memory verses for support.
- The child will be able to stand up in front of others and articulate their grace story.

What is our process at Watermark?

- Uses the link on the Watermark Website and then make an interview appointment.
- We will interview your child by themselves with two leaders present.
- We will bring parents into the conversation after the interview and let you know if we would encourage your child to be baptized or not.
- Ultimately it will be the parent's choice; however, a child needs to be able to fulfill the above expectations. It should be noted that many of the pastor's children at Watermark have not yet been baptised. We want it to be a meaningful thing in our children's lives.