

What should I do if I want to be Baptized at Smoky Hill Vineyard?

If you want to be baptized at Smoky Hill Vineyard, you will need to complete assigned study notes and take a baptism class. We offer these classes so every person being baptized has a complete understanding of the significance and meaning. This class is brief (1 hour) and runs prior to each baptism. We encourage you to invite friends and family to your baptism, since it is a wonderful opportunity to bear witness to what Jesus has done in your life.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the church office 303.690.2520.

baptism



Smoky Hill Vineyard

20050 E. Smoky Hill Road
Centennial, CO 80015
Tel. 303.690.2520

SHVchurch.org



What does the Bible teach about Baptism?

According to the Bible, Christian baptism is a step of obedience, a public proclamation of one's faith in Christ alone for salvation. Baptism demonstrates commitment to Jesus and identification with His death, burial, and resurrection.

In the gospels, the first story about Jesus as an adult is of His baptism. The last thing Jesus said to His disciples before ascending into heaven was to go throughout the world making disciples and baptizing them. Baptism is obviously a very important activity in the New Testament!

Baptism is also a subject that Christians don't all agree about. Here at Smoky Hill Vineyard, we view it as a secondary issue, allowing some room for disagreement between sincere believers. We have, nonetheless, tried to be faithful to the Bible and to what the church has done historically regarding baptism. Here is how we would answer some of the most frequently asked questions about baptism:

Basic Requirements:

The person being baptized must trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and understand what baptism signifies: It is a step of obedience in publicly proclaiming faith in Jesus.

Why should I be Baptized?

You don't need to be baptized to become a Christian. The New Testament teaches that a person becomes a Christian by repentance from sin and faith in Christ.

You do need to be baptized to be obedient to Jesus. We are commanded to be baptized as a part of being His disciples. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Mt. 28:19)

What Baptism is:

- Baptism is a public profession of your faith in Jesus Christ
- Baptism is done in front of a group of people who witness your confession of faith
- Baptism symbolizes cleansing of sin
- Throughout the New Testament baptism indicated that a person had "repented" or turned away from sin
- Baptism symbolizes your union with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. When you become a Christian, you die to sin and your old way of life and you begin a whole new life. The very act of baptism (being immersed and coming up out of the water) is a picture of what happens to you spiritually.

What Baptism is not:

- Baptism is not the only way we profess to be a Christian, but an important way

How should I be Baptized?

The Bible teaches that people should be baptized by immersion. The term "baptize" literally means to immerse or to dip. This was how people in the Bible were baptized.

When should I be Baptized?

You should be baptized as soon as possible after you have personally trusted Christ for salvation and been "born again." Remember, you are not baptized in order to become a Christian. You are baptized because you are a Christian. We should not put off baptism, since it is a command of Jesus.

Should I be Re-Baptized if I was Baptized at another church?

As long as you were "born again" when you were baptized, and as long as the church you were baptized at was a Christian church, then you do not need to be re-baptized. If, however, your baptism was merely a church ritual done prior to your conversion or if the church was outside of the mainstream of Christianity, then we would encourage baptism at Smoky Hill Vineyard.

What if I was Baptized as an infant?

Among Christians there are different perspectives on infant baptism. Some denominations and traditions (such as Episcopal, Presbyterian and Catholic) baptize infants, while others (such as most Baptists) do not. Perhaps you were baptized as an infant. How should you view that baptism? You certainly want to show respect to your parents and their viewpoints, as well as be grateful to God for any spiritual influence they had in your life. However, the Bible teaches that baptism is an action that follows conversion. So, if you have not been baptized since you have made a decision to follow Christ, we encourage you to get baptized.

Can my children be Baptized?

At SHV, we baptize children 11 years or older who thoroughly understand what they are doing. We desire to partner with parents in preparing their children for salvation and baptism. We do not baptize infants, as do some denominations and traditions. Instead, we dedicate infants to the Lord and call parents to commit themselves to raise their children to follow Christ. We do this based on the model seen in scripture of infants being dedicated to the Lord: Samuel in the Old Testament (1 Sam. 1:21-29) and Jesus in the New Testament (Luke 2:21-24).