

## “Baptism”

Recently the elders have spent considerable time discussing how we can do a better job of preparing people for baptism. Baptism, simply-put, is a person’s public profession of faith in Jesus Christ whereby, in obedience to Jesus Christ, they identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, along with the reality they have been cleansed from their sins by his Spirit (Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-4; Titus 3:5-6).

So, for those who are now in Jesus Christ, how can they be prepared to be immersed into the baptismal waters in such a way their faith can be verified and affirmed, and they can be prepared to give a clear, biblically-accurate testimony of faith in Jesus Christ? Here is an overview of the procedure MEFC will now follow.

Everyone baptized at MEFC will go through instruction on baptism. If a child wants to be baptized, the material we are using is designed to be taught by a parent (the dad in a two-parent situation). Unless there is some reason a child’s parent cannot teach the material, an elder or other leader will come alongside the parent and walk them through the instruction of their son or daughter.

Some of the topics in the material include: Understanding the Gospel; Assurance of Salvation; The Meaning Of Baptism; and Preparing a Testimony.

In the case of children, whether or not they are ready for baptism will be determined by the parents and the leader working with them. If in doubt, it will be strongly encouraged that the child wait until a later date, rather than encouraging them to make a false profession of faith and enter into false assurance.

Even adult baptismal candidates will go through the same instruction and preparation. With adults, it will ultimately be the call of the leader(s) meeting with them as to whether or not they are ready for baptism. In the event that it is determined the person doesn’t understand the gospel and/or may have not repented and trusted Jesus Christ, baptism will be delayed until such time as the person has received Christ as Savior.

From now on, testimonies will be recorded ahead of time and shone at the time the person is baptized. This approach is designed to make sure the testimony will clearly communicate the gospel and a person’s faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and have not been baptized, we strongly encourage you to be baptized. It is part of your obedience before Jesus Christ. It is also both a blessing to the church for you to profess your faith publically and also a good evangelistic tool with friends and family who are lost.

If you have questions about our new procedure or are interested in baptism, please talk to one of the elders: Tom Barnes, Lige Reed, Ed Alderman, Larry Bill, Sam Stadler, Randy Myers, Chris Kuehn, or Doug Althouse.