

## Baptism Questions

If the participant has placed their faith in Christ and desires church membership, then ask them about baptism:

Ask them if they have publicly professed their faith in Christ through baptism, after they placed their faith in Christ.

**Baptism "YES"** ...ask them to tell you about their baptism experience. Then move to the next steps:

1. Complete the Covenant Membership Card
2. Bring them to designated picture area
3. A follow up email will be sent from the staff
4. They are free to leave

**Baptism "NO"** ...If they have not been baptized, then help them see again what was covered earlier in the class about baptism. (see Starting Point workbook) That baptism, first, is our opportunity to show that we have been buried with Christ - we have let go of our old life (going under the water shows that our old self (that felt no need for God) that self died. And was buried with Christ who died for the way we lived. And that baptism, second, is our opportunity to confess that just as Christ was raised from the dead, He has given us a new start (represented by us coming out of the water)

Infant Baptism:

The Elder Body of Hope Point Church has prayerfully and deliberately considered the question of baptism and, specifically, the form and timing of baptism as a prerequisite to becoming a covenant member of Hope Point. We affirm and ratify this statement to summarize our view on this important question and to set forth how we believe this issue should be treated in our church body.

We believe that the better view from scripture is that believers in Christ should be baptized by immersion as an act of obedience following their profession of faith in Christ as their personal savior. Regardless, in the desire not to exclude those who have genuinely accepted Christ as their savior but who experienced prior baptism in

the Protestant faith (either as an infant or as part of a confirmation process), we accept into covenant membership those who were baptized prior to their profession of faith provided:

- 1) they have expressed a genuine profession of faith,
- 2) they acknowledge that baptism prior to a profession of faith in Christ is not regenerative, and
- 3) they affirm that they are bound by their conscience that their prior baptism is biblically valid.

Hope Point Elders

\*\*\*As with all covenant members, involvement in the life of Hope Point helps us observe their commitment and faith. We recommend a waiting period of two to three months for the prospective covenant member to pray and consider baptism by immersion. A follow up conversation from a staff member or elder will take place before the covenant membership is approved.

### **Next Steps**

- 1- Depending on their response to being baptized will determine the next step.
- 2- **Special note**...see counseling scenarios on page 11