

# Baptism

## PARENT GUIDE

**The Bible does not give us a precise age at which we should baptize children. All that we can determine with confidence from biblical teaching on baptism is that a child must be able to give a credible profession of personal faith in Christ Jesus and show evidence of new life in Christ.**

Therefore, East White Oak depends heavily on the child's parents to discuss baptism with him or her for the purpose of determining when he or she is ready to be baptized.

Christian parents are primarily responsible for overseeing the spiritual development of their children. Preparing a child for participation in the ordinance of baptism is an important part of that responsibility. The church is your partner and will facilitate your accomplishment of this high calling through Bible teaching and any practical help or advise you may need along the way. Please call on us if you need some help.

Here are some things we encourage parents to consider regarding their child's preparedness for baptism.

- A. The child should be a professing believer. As a parent you should have clear knowledge of the child's personal profession of faith in Christ before they are allowed to pursue baptism.
- B. Even though some children are intellectually and spiritually ready earlier, most children are not ready before the Junior High years. We do not offer baptism classes for those younger than Junior High age.
- C. Baptism is a very meaningful step of obedience in the Christian's life and we want it to be one that a person remembers. The older a child is the better memory he or she will have of this special event.
- D. We have a deep desire for those who are baptized to look back on this experience with absolute confidence that it reflected a sincere personal resolve

to follow the Lord and not something they did because their parents or peers wanted them to.

- E. Waiting and anticipating their baptism reinforces the significance of the experience for a young person.
- F. Participation in a baptism class is a prerequisite for baptism. The class is made up of important information regarding baptism. Content is not only biblical but historical and theological. Your child will be better equipped to understand this information if he or she will wait.

Here are some questions that may help you determine your child's readiness for baptism:

1. Does your child profess faith in Christ alone as their hope of forgiveness and salvation?  
Romans 3:23, 24 & Romans 6:23
2. Does your child know that Christ himself commanded that believers be baptized?  
Matthew 28:19
3. Does your child understand that baptism does not save him/her or forgive his/her sins?  
Ephesians 2:8, 9
4. Does your child understand that baptism is a public identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?  
Mark 8:38
5. Does your child understand that baptism is a pledge to follow Christ?  
Romans 6:1-4

These guidelines have been established for the purpose of maximizing the spiritual benefit for your child. Please note that this is a recommendation and not a mandate. East White Oak Bible Church has not established a minimum age for those requesting baptism.



**East White Oak**  
BIBLE CHURCH