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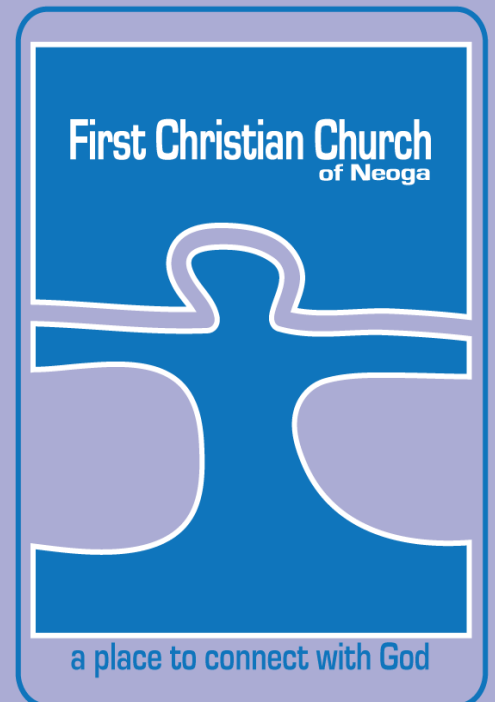
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WHAT WE BELIEVE SERIES

Doctrine:

Our View of  
Water Baptism



# Prepared by the Elders of First Christian Church of Neoga for the First Christian Church of Neoga:

## Reasons for a Decision to be made where we stand on immersion (water baptism):

The stance on immersion here at the First Christian Church of Neoga is important for several reasons.

- a. Doctrine espoused by God's Word is always vitally important.
- b. We need to be clear where we stand while serving in an American landscape of pluralism and relative truth.
- c. Clear understanding of our stance on immersion is practical. We believe that it is important for the unity of our church and evangelism efforts for us to be on the same page.
- d. Total theoretical agreement is not the goal but instead building a framework together that enraptures a church of Jesus to do his work, spread the word and lead the lost home and always teach the Word of God.
- e. Our stance on immersion is also important to our other doctrinal and ecclesiological (church) views such as church membership, teaching approaches and collective agreement among leaders.

## Conclusion:

- a. FCC of Neoga will always practice baptism by immersion. (mode)
- b. FCC of Neoga believes that God is the only one who can save or not save. No man/woman can judge the salvation of another man/woman. We believe that immersion is an act of submission to the will of God into Jesus Christ and does not reflect the work of man or woman. We will leave the decision as to when a person becomes saved to God and never make claims for Him.
- c. FCC of Neoga will teach and practice immediate immersion upon conversion. The timing of immersion seems to be irrefutable in the Scriptures. When God changes a person's heart and they desire to submit to Christ, all our teachers will suggest immediate immersion along with the teachings of confession and repentance. We desire to be faithful to these biblical examples to the best of our ability.
- d. FCC of Neoga understands that people may decide to wait on an immersion ceremony, but we strongly advise against this due to the lack of Scriptural example. However, we are not here to force these beliefs but to teach to the best of our ability trying to humbly stay true to the Word of God as the authority of the church with Jesus as the Head.
- e. FCC of Neoga will expect all who seek membership to be an immersed believer. One does not need to repeat an immersion for membership. Immersion is not intended to be an entry into a local congregation but we do desire all of our members to have at least trusted God in this act.

*For more information on our reasoning for this conclusion, please see the brochure  
Doctrine: Immersion: Mode, Reason and Timing.*