



Baptism at Grace Church

*Baptism is a great event that marks the commitment of those who are taking their next step in their journey by **going public in following Jesus**. It's one thing to receive forgiveness from sin and begin a personal relationship with Jesus but it's a whole other issue of going public! I am proud of you for your interest in taking the next step of baptism. Going public about following Jesus, can be an event that helps you on your journey. There are many questions about baptism. What you will discover in this booklet is more about baptism at Grace Church. If you would like to be baptized simply keep reading.*

What Is Baptism?

At Grace we baptize by immersion. It represents being washed clean. It **symbolizes** the change that happened in you when you gave your life to Jesus Christ. Baptism is a "word picture." Going down into the water represents your "dying" to your old life. Your coming up out of the water shows that you are now a new person, with a new and different life in Christ.

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **Romans 6:4***

You are making a public declaration that you have asked God to forgive you of your sins, that you belong fully to Him, and that you want to live your life totally for Him.

What baptism is not...

- Doesn't mean you're perfect or your life is all together.
- It doesn't make you better or make God love you more.
- It doesn't "save you." see Ephesians 2:8-9

Why should I be baptized?

Jesus clearly instructed his followers to be baptized. In an act of relational obedience—Jesus never "required" baptism for friendship with him and salvation through him. But, he also did not make baptism "optional" for any who would sincerely and whole-heartedly want to be his committed friend and devoted follower. Suppose you were about to get married and your fiancé decided that although they wanted the benefits of ongoing friendship and companionship with you, they saw no need to go through the public "rituals" or "symbols" of that kind of life-long commitment. Thus, there was no "requirement" for a ceremony, vows, wedding license, or wedding rings. "I don't have to do those things for others to know that I am committed to you!" they might say. Wouldn't you wonder about their commitment to you? What is the process for being baptized?

Do I need to say anything?

Remember baptism is: **Going Public**. Your baptism is an opportunity for God to work in others' lives. Typically, we ask a series of questions: *Do you believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to forgive you and give you eternal life with him? Do you want to follow Jesus the rest of your life?* Your proclamations and willingness to go public with your faith will encourage others and influence those considering a decision to follow Jesus. Wouldn't it be cool to learn that someone decided to give their life to Jesus because of your decision to go public with your faith?

What about Children?

Our desire is for baptism to be a meaningful event. One that is remembered and understood. We want to make sure our children understand the meaning of baptism so we do not encourage children under the age of 7 to be baptized. We have a class for parents and their child(ren) in preparation for baptism. For information regarding class dates or questions about the class, contact Christa Damron, Kids Director at christa@discovergrace.net.

What does the Bible say about Baptism?

Mark 1:9, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41, 8:12-13, 18:8 and Colossians 2:12