



Being baptized is one of the most special events of your life. Many people are confused about baptism. from why we do it, to how we do it, to how old should you be before you are baptized.



This Bible study is designed to prepare

you to be baptized here at Grace. After you have finished it you are welcome to contact us with any other questions you have. Below you will find what Grace Fellowship Church teaches about baptism and how we do baptisms at Grace.

1. **Christ commanded baptism**

What are Christ's four commands in Matthew 28:19-20?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

Baptism is a command of Jesus. It was practiced by the early church and Jesus himself was baptized. You can read about it in Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21-11. The Gospel of John also speaks about baptism.

Obedience to the Word of God is a very important thing. According to 2 Corinthians 5:9, what is to be our goal in life?

Read 1 Samuel 15:22. What does it tell us about obedience?

2. **Baptism is for Believers.**

Baptism has been a part of the church since the days of the the apostles. They practiced baptism of believers. Which brings us to an important point. Baptism at Grace is only done with believers. Take a look at these verses and see what the Bible says about this,

According to the following verses, what occurred before baptism took place?

- Acts 2:36-40
- Acts 8:9-13
- Acts 16:30-34

As you've already seen, Christ commanded baptism of believers in Matthew 28:19-20. The believers in the New Testament Church took those words seriously and followed through with their baptism as you've seen in the passages in Acts.

3. Baptism helps us have an identification with Christ.

There is a third reason we are baptized. It is so we can have an identification with Jesus Christ. Baptism is an outward expression of your inward faith in Christ's death, burial and resurrection. That is why at Grace the elders feel that you should be at least eight years old before you are baptized. There is nothing significant about the eight year of life beyond the rest, but we do feel that you should be old enough to know what you are doing and understand it. It's not just a ritual to cruise through, it's a reminder to you that you are dead to sin and arisen to walk in the newness of life. (See Romans 6:3-16)

The Greek word for "baptize" is "baptizein" which means "to dip or immerse." This is the word used in the New Testament to describe what happened to new believers.

Look at the following passages to discover how the early church handled the baptism of their new believers:

- John 3:23
- Acts 8:36-39
- Romans 6:4,5
- Colossians 2:12

Immersion means that you will be totally submerged underwater. At Grace Fellowship Church, we believe this best symbolizes our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

An important note about baptism...

Your salvation is not dependent upon your baptism. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast." That means that there is nothing we can do to earn God's unmerited favor. Although being baptized is an important step in the life of a believer, it's not the way to spend eternity with God. His grace is still the only way.

A few details

1. Wear dark modest clothing.
2. Bring a big towel and wear some flip-flops. You can change in the bathrooms at Grace but a lot of people go home to change.
3. Invite your friends, this is a big part of the identification with Christ.
4. Often parents or friends say something about your journey before you are baptized. These should be thought out in advance and brief in length.
5. Don't worry about the immersion part, it is really fast and you will be fine.
6. You can have parents or your lug/d-group leader baptize you. At Grace we do have a pastor oversee and participate with them.
7. When you have finished this Bible study, or if you have questions, email or call Randy. randy@gfc.tv, 404-786-3722.
8. You will be asked why you want to be baptized. Write down your answer in this box.

