

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review the following information about Baptism. To sign up for baptism, please fill out and submit the baptism registration. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at (940) 969-2427.

## WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

### I. To follow the example set by Jesus.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.”  
(Mark 1:9)

### II. Because Christ Commands it.

“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’”  
(Matt. 28:19-20)

### III. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

“...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” (Acts 18:8)  
“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey his commands.” (I John 2:3)

## WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

### I. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.”  
(Matt. 3:16)

### II. Every Baptism in the bible was by immersion.

(Example) “...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38-39)

### III. The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”

The Greek word ‘baptizo’ means “to immerse or dip under water.”

### IV. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

The founders of denominations agree.

**Martin Luther** – “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

**John Calvin** – “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

**John Wesley** – “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

### I. It illustrates Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again.”  
(I Cor. 15:3-4)

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” (Col. 2:12)

### II. It illustrates my New Life as a Christian.

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!”  
(II Cor. 5:17)

### III. Baptism Doesn’t Make you a Christian.

It shows that you ARE a believer.

Baptism does not save you; only your faith in Christ can do that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

**Baptism is the first step of obedience.**

## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

### Every person who has believed in Christ.

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” (Acts 2:41)

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...”  
(Acts 8:13)

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News – and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12)



At Grace Fellowship, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptized them. Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ through repentance and faith.

At Grace Fellowship, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

## **CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?**

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Pastor or one of our Children’s Leaders for a pre-baptism conversation.

## **WHAT DO I WEAR?**

Women should wear shorts and a top rather than a swimsuit. Men may wear a swimsuit. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing areas.

## **WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?**

No. At the beginning of the service, a ministry leader will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. A ministry leader will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off and watch the others. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

**Our Pastor and/or Ministry Leaders can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.**

## **WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?**

As soon as you have believed!

“Those who believed – were baptized – that day!” Acts 2:41

