

Understanding Baptism

Here at Grace, we always want you to understand what we do and why we do it. So here's a brief introduction to baptism presented as answers to frequently asked questions . . .

Does baptism save a person?

No, salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. (Eph. 2:1-10) Baptism symbolizes outwardly what has already happened inwardly when a person puts their faith in Jesus.

Who should be baptized?

Those who realize that Jesus Christ lived the life that they should be living and died the death that they deserve. Those who repent of (turn from) their sins and trust Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

Why should I be baptized?

- A person should be baptized because Jesus commands us to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19)
- A person should be baptized to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ, so that the church can celebrate together with them and so the world will know of our identification with Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:38)

How can I be forgiven and come into a life-changing relationship with God through Jesus Christ?

Repent of (turn from) your sins and your self-reliance and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ! (Acts 16:31) Realize that you're a great sinner, but that Jesus is a Great Savior. Repentance and faith must happen inwardly, but they can be expressed outwardly through a prayer something like this:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for dying for my sins, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and trust you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Who can I talk to about a relationship with God and/or baptism?

Any one of our staff or elders would consider it a privilege to talk with you about spiritual matters of the soul and/or baptism. We are here to serve you and desire to help any way we can. Just email or phone the church office to make an appointment. (info@gracecentralcoast.org, 805-543-2358)



Death to Life
Ephesians 2:1-10 | January 24, 2016

Perhaps you've noticed our neat, new "Death to Life" baptism shirts. Our shirts say what baptism pictures and what Ephesians 2:1-10 teaches . . .



Death to Life

Ephesians 2:1-10 | January 24, 2016

Connecting Together

In this 3rd week of Winter Growth Groups, take time to share your lives together.

Studying God's Word Together

1. How did you experience Sunday's baptism service? What's the value of celebrating baptism as part of our worship service on a Sunday morning?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does this passage relate to baptism? How does this passage make it clear that baptism is not a "work" that saves us?
3. In Ephesians 2:1-10, what have we been saved FROM? HOW are we saved and by WHOM? What are we saved FOR?

4. Here at Grace, while we practice "believers baptism," we recognize and accept that some were baptized as infants and believe that is sufficient for them. If you have been baptized, share your baptism story. What led you to that "next step"? Has it been a significant marker in your journey of faith?

5. If you have not been baptized, share your thoughts on baptism. What is holding you back from obeying the command of Jesus? (Matthew 28:18 -20)

6. What is a "Next Step" that you need to take in your faith? Serving? Giving? Baptism? Being disciplined? Discipling another? Reading the Bible? Other?

Household/Family Focus: for discussion in your household

Share your baptism stories with one another. Why were you baptized and how was the experience for you? If there are kids in your household, share with them why we baptize at Grace and challenge them to make their faith their own through baptism, but be careful not to force them or manipulate them toward baptism.

Prayer

Share needs and pray for one another. Pray also . . .

1. That many would come to a true faith in Jesus.
2. That we too would take "next steps" in our walk with Jesus.
3. For the discipling of the next generation in our church.