



BAPTISM AT GRACE

Why do we baptize?

We baptize because Jesus, our Lord, has commanded us to. Jesus left these final instructions with His disciples: *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19,20 (ESV)

Jesus, exercising the authority given to Him by the Father, commands His disciples to *“go and make disciples”*, to baptize them, and then to teach them to do the same. The modern born - again believer is a product of their obedience, and to us falls the same charge – go and make disciples and baptize them.

How do we baptize?

At GBCN we baptize by immersion. The individual is fully submerged briefly in water to picture their union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6). One could picture going under the water as death and burial and coming out of the water as raised to new life in Christ.

What is baptism?

Baptism is an ordinance (decree) given to the Church to observe by our Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism symbolizes the individual's salvation in Christ linking them to centuries of Christian heritage. Through baptism, the individual publicly expresses their faith in Christ, their obedience to Christ and their desire to live a separated life to His glory.

Who should be baptized?

It is our conviction that baptism is for born-again believers only, therefore we do not baptize infants and children. Every true believer should be baptized in obedience to Christ. The baptism candidate must first attend a baptism class, or meet with one of the pastors before the baptism service.