

Baptism



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19,20).

Jesus’ command to make disciples is the backbone of our mission at Grace Polaris Church: To honor God by multiplying devoted followers of Jesus through worship, community, training, and witness.

Why do we baptize people?

We baptize people because Jesus told us to do it. In the words quoted above, Jesus explained that His disciples should baptize new disciples. The New Testament clearly associates water baptism as a sign of a person’s conversion to new life in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 8:27–39; 16:14,15, 27–33; 18:8).

What does baptism mean?

At Grace we believe that baptism is one of the ordinances of Jesus, meaning it is one of the physical signs He wants us to practice as we remember certain spiritual truths. Water baptism symbolizes our association with the triune God, who exists as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19,20; 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Greek word for baptize literally means “to immerse.” We immerse believers three times in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those who are baptized demonstrate their willing association with the triune God, but they also demonstrate obedience to the command of Jesus. To be baptized is to publicly declare that one has received the gift of salvation and new life in Jesus Christ. We baptize people in public settings to testify collectively to Jesus’ saving work. This public context also enables the person being baptized to testify allegiance to their Savior.

What does baptism not mean? _____

Baptism does not give a person eternal life; that only comes by trusting in Jesus (John 1:12; 20:31; Ephesians 2:8,9). Being baptized is an act of obedience, not a determination of one's eternal destiny (Luke 23:40–43). Furthermore, baptism does not automatically make someone a member of Grace Polaris Church.

Who should be baptized? _____

The universal pattern in the New Testament is for believers to be baptized after having trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation (Acts 2:38; 16:27–33). We believe individuals who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ should be baptized. We also encourage parents of children who have expressed a desire to be baptized to work closely with church leadership to determine when the child is ready.

Learn More & Apply at
GracePolaris.org/Baptism