



Baptism Sunday

January 28, 2018



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Growth Group Week 3 of 9

Understanding Baptism

Here at Grace, we always want you to understand what we do and why we do it. 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 campus 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 contact your campus staff by phone or email.

Connecting & Caring Together (about 20 min.)

Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another, and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to gracecentralcoast.org.

Grappling with God's Word Together (about 20 min.)

1. Baptism Sundays are amazing and meaningful Sundays at Grace! What were your personal takeaways from the service? How were you touched, moved or challenged?
2. Baptism in the early church and throughout the book of Acts was often the first NEXT STEP after trusting Christ. If you've been baptized, share your own baptism story and what it's meant to you. If you've not been baptized, if you're willing, share where you're at in relation to the Biblical command to be baptized and what's holding you back.
3. How does baptism picture our spiritual union with Christ?
4. Seeing others take a NEXT STEP in their faith like baptism should spur us and stimulate us to take NEXT STEPS. What is your NEXT STEP in your trusting and following Jesus through life?

(Ideas: serving in some new way, becoming a Covenant Member at Grace, stepping into leadership in some way, initiating/leading spiritually at home in some way, becoming a Growth Group shepherd, giving consistently of your financial resources, exploring fasting or other spiritual disciplines, growing in prayer, learning to share your faith, loving/serving your neighbors, pursuing reconciliation in a broken relationship, developing deeper friendships with believers or non-believers, serving the poor, developing a Bible reading plan, seeking out a mentor, becoming a mentor, getting some Christian counseling . . . OR SOMETHING ELSE?)

Praying Together (about 20 min.)

- Pray together for those baptized today that baptism might be a catalyst to galvanize and grow their faith.
- Pray together for one another and the "NEXT STEPS" shared above.
- Pray together that many more people might be saved and baptized at Grace Central Coast.