



We are excited that you are considering baptism. Please take a moment to review the following information about this next step. To sign up for baptism, please complete and return the baptism registration. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the church office at (864) 888-0703.

it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

➤ **To follow the example set by Christ.**

Mark 1:9 *At that time Jesus Came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan [river].*

➤ **Because Christ commanded it.**

Matthew 28:19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

➤ **To demonstrate that I am really a believer.**

I John 2:3 *We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.*

What Is The Meaning of Baptism?

➤ **It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.**

Romans 6:4 *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Colossians 2:12 *You have been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

➤ **It illustrates my new life as a Christian.**

II Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

➤ **Baptism doesn't make you a Christian.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves,*

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

➤ **Jesus was baptized that way.**

Matthew 3:16 *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water....*

➤ **Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

For example, Acts 8:38-39 *And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.*

➤ **The word "baptize" means to "immerse"**

➤ **Baptism best symbolizes Christ's burial and resurrection**

Romans 6:1-11 *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he died to sin once for all; but he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who believes in Christ. Believers are people who have realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. They have decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized.

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three hundred were added to their number that day.
Acts 8:12-13 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized.
Acts 10:47-48 Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

What About Children?

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the person did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At Grace we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we will meet with the child and their parents to begin the process of working through ***I'm A Christian Now*** activity book from Lifeway to make sure the full meaning and significance of baptism has taken place in their life. After this process we will gladly baptize them into Christian faith.

What About Infant Baptism?

In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But he did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So, it seems more Biblical to wait until after a personal decision to trust Christ as Savior has been made by the child. If baptism is a public profession of salvation, as the Bible teaches, only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.

If you have not experienced adult baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed. *Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Does This Mean It Has To Be Immediately?

The Bible teaches that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. So why delay?

What Do I Should I Do Next?

Call us at 864-888-0703 or e-mail us at gracelovesoconee@gmail.com to set up an appointment with Pastor Shawn.

What Should I Expect at My Appointment with Pastor Shawn?

We do baptism a little different, you will need to meet with Pastor Shawn to discuss your salvation experience and we require you to write out your testimony, what your life was like before Christ, when you came to Christ and what your life is like now. You have the option to either have it read by someone at baptism on the stage or we can film you talking giving your testimony and show it before you are baptized.

What Do I Wear?

Shorts and a dark shirt are recommended. Remember to bring a towel and a change of clothes to wear home. After your baptism, you will be able to use a changing room in the fellowship hall. Plan to arrive approximately 30 minutes before the start of the service for some last-minute instructions.