

Baptism at Grace Fellowship Latham

While baptism is a personal decision, it's also a public declaration of our desire to follow Jesus Christ. It's a biblical way of showing our commitment to Jesus and letting others know that we are in a personal relationship with Him. At Grace Fellowship we practice biblical baptism by full immersion in water for anyone who has made the personal commitment to follow Christ and accept Him as their personal Savior.

The Command

Why do we baptize? Simply put, we baptize because Jesus command us to do so. Matthew 28:19-20 says, "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."

The Meaning

Baptism symbolizes two things:

- *Redemption*. It represents Christ's redemptive work in His death on the cross as payment for our sins, His burial and His resurrection. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we accept and trust in His forgiveness of our sins.
- *New Life*. It illustrates a "new life" with Christ by cleansing us from the sin of the old life so that we can live in obedience to God's word. Baptism isn't required for forgiveness, but it's required if we want to follow the Bible's example of truly living according to God's commands.

Baptism & Salvation

It is important to note that baptism *does not* equal salvation. On the contrary, it is evident throughout the New Testament that salvation is received by grace through faith.

- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law (Romans 3:28).

If you are interested in being baptized please contact Krissy Day at kday@gracefellowship.com or at 785-4959 ext 220.