



A Biblical View of Believer's Baptism.

Before His ascension into heaven, Jesus Christ commanded the disciples to preach the gospel, make disciples, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is most importantly a command given by Jesus Christ before His departure. It is closely linked to the ministry of preaching and making disciples.

Baptism has been a significant yet often misunderstood practice of the church. Consistent with Scripture, baptism is not an act that achieves salvation, nor is it a prerequisite for salvation. Instead, baptism is post-conversion. Baptism is a demonstration of an inner transformation. It identifies a believer's new life with the risen Christ (Col. 2:12). In obedience to the Savior's command, baptism is a public display of a new life in Christ Jesus. You are dead in reference to sin and alive to righteousness (Rom. 6:1-4).

Following Jesus' words in Matthew, baptism is only for those who can publicly testify of that new life in Christ. Your testimony declares Christ's lordship over them. Baptism is also a symbol of the Spirit's inner work in washing you of sin's pollution (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Ezek 36:25).

Baptism is also a public demonstration of your identification with the local church body. When you are baptized, you make known in the presence of witnesses that new and eternal relationship with God's people. The Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). Water baptism is a symbol of that eternal reality.

The question every eager new convert should ask is, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized." (Acts 8:36)

If you would like to be baptized, please fill out the form, scan it, and email to info@graceoflongbeach.org, or print the completed form and submit it to one of our ushers. We will contact you after reviewing your application for baptism.