



An Overview of Baptism at Fellowship Dallas

Baptism. What is it and what does it mean?

In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus commands His followers to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Baptism is the means by which Christ’s followers identify themselves with Christ and His Church. And because Christ modeled it and commanded it, all Christians should be baptized. Baptism is a bold statement of our commitment to follow Christ. Simply put, baptism is the outward symbol of grace received.

Romans 6:1–11 specifically addresses baptism. In these verses, the apostle Paul explains how the act of water baptism mirrors our identification with Jesus Christ and the spiritual transformation that accompanies placing our faith in Him. Going underwater symbolizes Christ’s physical death and the spiritual death of our old self. Coming out of the water illustrates His resurrection and the newness of life we can experience as His followers.

The symbolic ordinance of baptism is meaningless without first placing your faith in Jesus Christ. And because it is a symbol, you don’t have to be baptized in order to truly receive God’s forgiveness any more than you must exchange rings in order to be married. But if the inner commitment to trust Christ alone has been made, then the outward sign of baptism should be as valued and as visible as the gold ring on a newlywed’s finger.

In other passages like Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47–48, it is evident that the act of baptism came after an individual’s decision to trust Christ for salvation. It was an outward symbol of an inward change that had occurred in a person’s life. No one should be baptized unless they have placed their faith in the saving death of Jesus Christ and thereby identified with Him. No one can make that decision for another person. The New Testament records the baptism of adults who are believers, but never infants. Again, baptism does not lead to spiritual change; it is a symbol signifying that spiritual change has already happened.

What We Believe:

- Baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ (and follows His example).
- Baptism symbolizes the spiritual cleansing through divine forgiveness and the newness of life experienced by believers by virtue of their identification with Christ in his death and resurrection.
- Baptism provides an opportunity for believers to make a formal profession of their faith before the church.

How We Baptize:

By immersion. At Fellowship Dallas, we baptize people by immersion because of its biblical symbolism of Christ’s death and resurrection, and because it is the biblical model throughout the New Testament (the Greek word *baptizo* literally means “to dip or immerse.”) However, the Bible does not mandate a method. Therefore, previous believer’s baptism is valid whether it was by immersion or sprinkling.

Publicly. Baptism is an opportunity to testify to God’s salvation and ongoing work in a believer’s life. Therefore, we perform baptisms publicly, sharing this celebration with the church family in a baptism service.

When We Baptize:

Baptism is held as often as there are believers who are ready to take this step of obedience and faith. They are held during our 10am worship service on Sundays.

Your Next Steps:

- Schedule your one-on-one with the pastor who has contacted you or by emailing us at Baptisms@FellowshipDallas.org or filling out the online form.
- Reflect on your story. During your one-on-one meeting with a pastor on staff, we'll discuss what this declaration means to you and answer any questions you may have about the process.
- Upon scheduling your baptism, feel free to invite any of your family and/or friends to celebrate with you!

If you have any other questions, please contact us at **Baptisms@FellowshipDallas.org**