

“Identify”
Matthew 3:13-17

March 22, 2026

Goal: Baptism identifies us with Christ.

Identify

It seems very important for us to identify with certain people, movements, ideas, and events. Certain images, clothing, or jewelry identify us as followers of someone or something. All around the world people wear certain markings, head dress, jewelry, and even tattoos to identify with a group or a person. Baptism identifies us with Jesus.

Baptism – Origin

We are not sure when or where baptism first originated. We know that it did not originate with Jesus. John was baptizing others before Jesus came on the scene. There are at least seven baptisms throughout both Old and New Testaments.

1. **Baptism of Moses (1 Corinthians 10:1-2).** Jews were “baptized into Moses” by following him across the Red Sea.
2. **Baptism of Suffering (Mark 10:38-39).** Jesus would identify Himself with suffering at the cross.
3. **Baptism of John (Mark 1:4-8).** John’s baptism was a baptism identified with repentance.
4. **The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17).** Jesus identified Himself with God’s demand for righteousness.
5. **Baptism of Fire (Matthew 3:11-12).** Christ-followers will be delivered from the fire of judgment.
6. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11-12).** This baptism is for the Apostles enabling them to carry out miracles.
7. **Baptism in the Name of Jesus (Acts 2:36-38).** This is the baptism we practice today.

Paul clearly stated in Ephesians 4:5, that there is only “...one Lord, one faith, one baptism...” That means that there is only “one baptism” that is ordained by Jesus and meaningful to the NT church.

Symbolism

This is why the practice baptism is so very important to us. That is one of the reasons we baptize by immersion at GRACE. The symbolism demonstrates the authenticity of our faith. The people getting baptized next Sunday are not simply religious, they are committed. Note the symbolism...

- Follow** – It is our sincere intention to follow Jesus, so we follow His example in baptism. Baptism identifies me as a follower of Jesus.
- Death** – We are trusting the death of Christ for forgiveness. We cannot make ourselves righteous. We are willing to “carry our cross and die to ourselves.” We too, have “died to sin.”
- Resurrection** – We trust His resurrection for eternal life. We will be raised one day like Jesus. In the meantime, we will walk in a “new way.”

Family Night – Read Matthew 3:13-17

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “Why do you think God was so happy with Jesus?” (Note vv.16-17 – God is happy when we obey). Ask, “Why is it so hard to obey?” Stress that we are sinners and need a Savior in Jesus.
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “What does ‘repent’ mean? Ask, If Jesus had no sin, why did He want to be baptized?” Note: We turn away from sin and to Jesus. Ask, Do have any interest in being baptized?”

Prayer: "Father, please help us to obey You and follow Jesus. Amen."

<p>Velocity (Middle and High School Students) Velocity: Meets on Wednesdays here at the church. Gravity: Today in Both Services</p> <p>Today’s Songs <i>How Great Thou Art</i>.....Hymn <i>Build My Life</i>.....Chris Tomlin <i>Battle Belongs</i>.....Phil Wicham</p> <p>Clean-Up Day Clean up outside next Saturday, March 28th. Asking any men who can help to meet us here at the church at 8am.</p>	<p>Baptism Next Sunday, March 29th. Use the Communication Card to let us know if you are interested or have questions.</p> <p>Amazonia Summer Camp Summer Camp is June 8-12. If you can help us with camp this year, please fill out the volunteer form and leave at the Welcome Desk.</p> <p>Easter Invite someone to Easter Service on April 5th. We will have both a 9:30 and 11:00 service.</p>
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