

## Baptism Worksheet

### I. The logistics of Baptism at GCC

1. **Plan to arrive at the church no later than 6:15 pm.** Members of the baptism team will meet you and review this worksheet with you before the service.
2. Be sure to invite family, friends, co-workers, etc. it's a great witness. You will be prayed over. **If there's someone special you want to pray for you, invite them to come.**
3. **Please bring a towel, swimwear, sandals or water shoes and a waterproof bag to carry home wet items.**
4. We will supply you with a robe; be sure to **remove anything you don't want to get wet** like watches and exercise trackers!
5. You will be baptized "into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and into the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".
6. Pastor Paul and one other will perform the baptism.
7. Cross your arms on your chest as you go under the water; if you wish, you can hold your nose shut with one hand. **Expect to go completely under the water.**
8. Please make sure that we have the exact spelling of your name, as you want it on your certificate and your email and phone number so we can reach you after.

### II. Why should we be baptized?

1. Jesus instructed his disciples to make disciples and to baptize them. (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. In baptism, we follow the example of Jesus. Jesus insisted on being baptized by John, who was preaching a baptism of repentance, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 3:13-17).
3. The three thousand in the early church who accepted Peter's message also set the example for us. (Acts 2:41)

✓ **Do you want to be a disciple, or follower of Jesus?**

### III. The meaning of baptism

1. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change, that we are disciples, or followers, of Jesus Christ.

2. Before being baptized, you must confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, believe in your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and accept God's gift of salvation, by grace, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans: 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; and 10:9)

✔ Do you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead?

✔ Have you Confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord?

3. Baptism with repentance signifies that we have already been forgiven of our sins. (Acts 2:38)

✔ Do you repent, or turn away from your sins, and commit to walking in a different direction; the direction that pleases God?

4. Baptism demonstrates that we are one with Jesus in his death, burial and resurrection. (Romans 6:3-11, Galatians 2:20)

5. Thus, it is a sign of death to our old life and the birth of a new creation, a new life. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

6. Greek word “baptize” means: 1) to immerse, to submerge; 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash oneself, bathe; 3) to overwhelm ... the key concept here is being completely immersed - and you will be.

7. The same word, “baptizo”, was also used to describe dyeing cloth and making pickles and both are good analogies:

Cloth that has been fully immersed in dye comes out a completely different color, a color that can't be changed. Immersing a vegetable in vinegar also produces a permanent change. That's what we are talking about here; baptism is an outward symbol of the permanent change that happened when we accepted Jesus. In fact, when used in the New Testament, this word typically refers more to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g., Mark 16:16. 'He that believes and is baptized shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a permanent change, like the vegetable to the pickle!"

✔ Do you understand that you are about to be buried with Christ, as you are completely immersed in water, and that you will be raised up out of that water into new life, in Christ, as a new person, free from your past bondage of sin & death, able to walk with Jesus Christ, as a child of God?

✔ Think about how you would answer this question, in your own words: Why do you want to be baptized?

✔ Who's praying over you tonight?