



So you've been asked to baptize someone?

Congratulations on being asked by someone we both love to participate in this very special time in their life!

This guide is to help you, as the officiant, to help your friend or loved one to be completely obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who should baptize? Only *baptized* disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ can officiate baptisms because **only baptized disciples** are authorized to fulfill the Great Commission. You might be thinking: *Shouldn't priests or ministers be doing this?* The answer is: YES ... but different from what you might be used to.

At Grace, we believe the Bible teaches the importance of the doctrine of "the priesthood of the believer" – that every member is a minister. This is something that you should be in good conscience about. If you need more explanation about this, please contact Sean Lee at 575-317-4658.

Do I need to be a member of Grace? In most cases. The proviso is this: IF you are a **member** of a local church, and IF you are a **consistent attender** and **involved in ministry** at your local church, we are very amenable. The bottom line is that this is not simply a cute thing to do for your friend or loved one. The Baptismal Officiate should be very sure of their rights and responsibilities. You represent the Church.

How should I prepare? We encourage you to take this time to recognize your part in the history of God's mission on earth. For over 2,000 years, disciples have been making and baptizing disciples. You're a part of that process. This is not an insignificant thing.

In terms of the actual process, we'll give you some tips right before. The main thing is to just make sure you arrive on time. Most baptismal candidates come to the first service, then receive baptism between services promptly at 10:15.

Keep in communication with the person that requested you.

In addition, this is a great time to renew your own commitment as disciple-maker and spiritual friend. How can you demonstrate for them greater maturity, love, service, and sacrifice for the Body of Christ? Remember: we're called to be more than just believers – we're believers.

What do I say? Below is a simple protocol to exchange with your baptismal candidate. Other than that, that's it! Celebrate this with your Baptismal Candidate! Enjoy the day! Thank you for doing your part in fulfilling the Great Commission!

_____, you have presented yourself before your church
to profess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ:

Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God,
and have made him the Lord and Savior of your life?

(response)

Based on that good confession, it is my privilege
to baptize you my (brother/sister) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(quietly remind them to hold their breath and pinch their nose)

Buried with Christ in baptism ...

(dip completely under water)

Raised to walk in the newness of life!