

## What is Christian Baptism?

What is baptism? What does it mean? And why is it important for disciples of Jesus?

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River to publicly identify with the Kingdom of God that is marked by repentance and heart change (Matt. 3:13-17). For Jesus, being baptized was his anointing by God the Father and the beginning of his Messianic ministry. Later, Jesus commands his own disciples to baptize those who wish to follow Jesus in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit so that we would identify with him as Lord and outwardly signify a real inner change (Matt. 28:18-20).

Grantham Church is a congregation of the Brethren in Christ denomination. The Brethren in Christ (BIC) practice “believer’s baptism” and invite those who can receive and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ to be baptized by immersion.

“The baptism of believers is a public witness that they have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and are becoming part of the community of faith. We believe that baptism by immersion symbolizes the believer’s submission to Jesus Christ and identification with His death and resurrection.” – BIC Articles of Faith and Doctrine (Life of the Church: Ordinances and Practices)

The Brethren in Christ are children of the Anabaptists, who understood that baptism follows belief in Jesus as Lord (Acts 2:38-41). The accepted mode of baptism for the BIC is a forward kneeling immersion as a sign of humble obedience. As Christ bowed his head in death, so a believer kneels or bows in submission to God and is baptized into the death of Jesus and raised to new life through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:4). Three immersions honor God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Those who wish to covenant with the BIC and have been previously baptized as believers are not required to be rebaptized.

For more information on baptism at Grantham Church and/or our beliefs within the Brethren in Christ, go to:

[www.granthamchurch.org/baptism](http://www.granthamchurch.org/baptism)

### Elijah McKinney

My name is Elijah McKinney. I want to get baptized because I want to devote myself to God.

My sister and my friend got baptized and that inspired me to also do it. I have loved God for my whole life and love to go to church. My friends go to church also.

