

LESSON # 7 BAPTISM

Name or Character of God – **Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life**

“I am the resurrection and the life” John 11:25 By saying this, Jesus was claiming to be the source of both. There is no resurrection apart from Christ, and there is no eternal life apart from Christ.

Key Teaching Points – **Baptism**

Baptize = *baptízō* "immerse / submerge in water" in contrast to *antéxomai* "sprinkle"

Baptism means to Identify with Christ. In water baptism, we publically identify with what Christ did for us on the cross. We are symbolically identifying our self with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Romans 6:3-4 Baptism by immersion is a picture of Christ's death (going under the water) and resurrection (coming out of the water). This Illustration of the Death (under the water) and Resurrection (out of the water) is extremely significant of the change in our lives too.

Baptism is simply Obedying what Jesus told us to do. Jesus was baptized, (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:31-34), and He also told us to be baptized. Baptism is not a means for salvation, but an act of faith and obedience after believing the Gospel and turning to God. In the great commission, Jesus commanded his disciples to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Math. 28)

While Baptism does mean obedience, it Does Not mean salvation. There are many verses in the Bible that say that salvation is by believing alone and not by any added works. By Grace – Through Faith – Not Works (John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24, Acts 16:31, Rom. 8:9-10, Eph. 2:8-9, 1 John 5:11-13)

Baptism is a sign of Repentance. The old self has gone and the new self has come. II Cor. 5:17 The old self is buried. Water baptism outwardly demonstrates what has happened inwardly. Water baptism is our public declaration of our death to sin. It is also our public confession of our new life in Christ. We are saying “Goodbye” to our old self and “Hello” to our new creation in Christ.

Baptism means I want to Follow Christ moving forward. The believer is declaring they have died to sin. Jesus is their Lord and Master moving forward, and they are not ashamed to be identified as a Christ follower. Romans 1:16, Gal. 3:26-27 Baptism is a way to show the world that we are following Jesus. Water baptism symbolizes the believer’s total trust and total reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as a commitment to live obediently to Him.

Baptism is being United with other believers. Baptism expresses unity with other believers. (Eph. 2:19, Gal. 3:26–29). Baptism is also meant to join one to a local body of believers. Acts 2:41 shows that the people who heard Peter’s preaching and were saved on the Day of Pentecost “were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” There is no such thing as a “Lone Ranger Christian.” Baptism is also meant to keep us close and connected to each other. .

Sometimes the word baptism means something different than water baptism.

Romans 6:3 “Baptized into Christ Jesus” – Having accepted Christ in our lives

Col. 2:12 “Having been buried with him in baptism” - We have repented of our sin for salvation

Gal. 3:27 “baptized into Christ” – We were immersed into Christ at our salvation

I Cor. 12:13 “We were all baptized into one body” – The Holy Spirit makes us one in the body of Christ.

What about Infant Baptism and Sprinkling?

*The desire of parents to baptize their children as infants is usually grounded in their desire to have them grow up under the protection and blessings of the Lord. While their desire is good this seems to be much better accomplished through a baby dedication than infant baptism.

*At its core, the definition of baptism means to "immerse / submerge in water." This seems to give all the instruction we need for baptism by immersion only. Water baptism by immersion is a powerful symbolic representation of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Should a person be re-baptized if first baptized unbiblically?

If baptized as an infant – Yes If Baptized but not truly saved at the time - Yes

If Baptized after salvation, but not by immersion: (Sprinkling or pouring, does not fit the biblical definition of baptism. A believer who has been baptized in this ways should ask the Lord for wisdom. (James 1:5, Romans 14:23), and trust God that He will lead in just what to do.

Can I be re-baptized as an “encouraging refresher” to my Spiritual Walk with Christ?

Choosing to be re-baptized, (unless needed as seen above) doesn't add any spiritual benefit, and should not be sought after. Being re-baptized may not to be sinful, (being re-baptized in the Jordan River), but neither is it necessary.

Other Notes on Baptism:

*Communion and Baptism are the two ordinances given to the church in the New Testament.

*Baptism always follows salvation as an outward sign of an inward reality.

*The criminal on the cross never experienced water baptism, but at that moment he was spiritually “baptized” and made a new person in Christ. Luke 23:39–43

*Because no direct command is given in Scripture regarding the length of time required between a person's confession of faith and his baptism, there is freedom for each church and its leaders to develop the best practice for their particular congregation.

Main Point

Baptism is a command of Jesus that identifies us with Christ, unites us with other believers, and is a testimony to the world that we are not ashamed as followers of Jesus Christ.

Verses for Further Study

Matthew 3:13-16, Mark 1:4-13, Acts 2:37-41, Acts 16:25-34, Romans 6:1-11, Col. 2:9-15, 3:1-4

Verse to Memorize

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Action Steps

- ✓ Thank God for your baptism. If you have not been baptized, talk to your pastor about getting baptized
- ✓ Consider carefully the underlined words above: Identify, Obey, Repentance, Follow, United.

Further Questions to Consider

†Have you been baptized? If so, when was that? What are your memories of that special day?

†Because the word baptism doesn't always means water baptism, what is the most important kind of baptism?

†How might you renew your heart today towards the passion and joy you had on your baptism day?