



UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM

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Lesson 2 in a Series on New Testament Salvation

What is Baptism?

- Webster.com: an act, experience, or ordeal by which one is purified, sanctified, initiated, or named
- We will be specifically discussing *water* baptism

What is Baptism?

- It is an essential part of being *born again*; the two parts of the New Birth are ***natural*** rebirth (baptism in water) and ***spiritual*** rebirth (baptism in the Spirit) – see John 4:4

John 3:3-5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3-5

⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

John 3:3-5

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

What is Baptism?

- Because baptism is part of the New Birth, it must be preceded by repentance (spiritual death)
- Having your carnal nature and your spiritual nature trying to coexist would be miserable!

What is Baptism?

- You **MUST** first repent...John sent people away and wouldn't allow them to be baptized unless they had first repented (Luke 3:7-8)

Luke 3:7-8 (ERV)

⁷ Crowds of people came to be baptized by John. But he said to them, "You are all snakes! Who warned you to run from God's judgment that is coming?"

Luke 3:7-8 (ERV)

8 Change your hearts! And show by your lives that you have changed.

What is Baptism?

- Baptism is a *burial*; your old nature, which has died or been *crucified with* Christ (Galatians 2:20) through repentance, is now buried with Christ - along with your record of sins - through baptism (Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:3-4)

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ:
nevertheless I live; yet not I, but
Christ liveth in me: and the life which
I now live in the flesh I live by the faith
of the Son of God, who loved me,
and gave himself for me.

Colossians 2:12 (ERV)

When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and you were raised up with him because of your faith in God's power. God's power was shown when he raised Christ from death.

Romans 6:3-4 (ERV)

3 Did you forget that all of us became part of Christ Jesus when we were baptized? In our baptism we shared in his death.

Romans 6:3-4 (ERV)

⁴ So when we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and took part in his death. And just as Christ was raised from death by the wonderful power of the Father, so we can now live a new life.

What is Baptism?

- This burial is necessary if you expect to resurrect to a new life in Christ through the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which we will discuss in another lesson

What is Baptism?

- Baptism is a public declaration that you are becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ by "putting on" Christ, or taking on His name (Galatians 3:27) (This is one reason we don't encourage "secret" or private baptisms)

Galatians 3:26-27 (ERV)

You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This shows that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

What is Baptism?

- Baptism is a spiritual surgery that cuts away the sinful part of our hearts, just as circumcision cuts away a person's flesh for cleanliness (Colossians 2:11)

Colossians 2:11 (ERV)

In Christ you had a different kind of circumcision, one that was not done by human hands. That is, you were made free from the power of your sinful self. That is the kind of circumcision Christ does.

Why be baptized?

- Because it is a commandment of God's Word (Acts 2:38)

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Why be baptized?

- Because without it, we cannot enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:3-5)

John 3:3-5 (ERV)

3 Jesus answered, "I assure you, everyone must be born again. Anyone who is not born again cannot be in God's kingdom."

John 3:3-5 (ERV)

⁴ Nicodemus said, "How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?"

John 3:3-5 (ERV)

5 Jesus answered, "Believe me when I say that everyone must be born from water and the Spirit. Anyone who is not born from water and the Spirit cannot enter God's kingdom."

Why be baptized?

- Because without it, we are not saved; instead, we are condemned (Mark 16:16)

Mark 16:16 (ERV)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. But those who do not believe will be judged guilty.

Why be baptized?

- Because it is the only way for our sins to be forgiven; without it, we remain guilty and our repentance is not complete (Acts 2:38; Acts 10:43; 22:16)

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:43 (ERV)

“Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name. All the prophets agree that this is true.”

Acts 22:16 (NLT)

'What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.'

Who must be baptized?

- Everyone who is old enough to understand and believe (we don't baptize babies because the Bible says those who are baptized must do so because they **believe** - something babies aren't cognitively able to do)

Mark 16:16 (ERV)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. But those who do not believe will be judged guilty.

Who must be baptized?

- Anyone who wishes to have their sins forgiven (Acts 2:38)

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Who must be baptized?

- Anyone who wishes to be saved!
(Mark 16:16)

Mark 16:16 (ERV)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. But those who do not believe will be judged guilty.

How should we baptize?

- The word “baptized” in our English Bibles comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, which means to dip, immerse or submerge, so the only correct way to baptize according to the Bible is to be **immersed** or **submerged** in water

◦ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G907&t=KJV>

How should we baptize?

- Baptism by sprinkling (which is really impossible) was not a “thing” in the Bible; it was not practiced until decades after the last of the original Apostles died

◦ <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/886-what-is-the-history-of-infant-sprinkling>

How should we baptize?

- In the Bible, water baptism always involves ***going down in the water*** (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39)

Matthew 3:16 (ERV)

So Jesus was baptized. As soon as he **came up out of the water**, the sky opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove.

John 3:23 (ERV)

John was also baptizing people in Aenon, a place near Salim with **plenty of water**. People were going there to be baptized.

Acts 8:36, 38 (ERV)

36 While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The official said, "Look, here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?"

Acts 8:36, 38 (ERV)

38 Then the official ordered the chariot to stop. **Both Philip and the official went down into the water,** and Philip baptized him.

How should we baptize?

- The *name* in which we are baptized is critically important, because Peter preached that all the prophets gave witness that people who believe in Jesus will receive the forgiveness of sins *through His name* (Acts 10:43)

Acts 10:43 (ERV)

“Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name. All the prophets agree that this is true.”

How should we baptize?

- Jesus ordered His apostles to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19); the apostles understood this to mean they should baptize in the name of Jesus Christ, and this is what they did every time they baptized (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:6)

Matthew 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:16 (ERV)

These people had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, but the Holy Spirit had not yet come down on any of them. This is why Peter and John prayed.

Acts 10:48 (ERV)

So Peter told them to baptize Cornelius and his relatives and friends in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Acts 19:5 (ERV)

When these followers heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

How should we baptize?

- Since forgiveness of sins comes through the name of Jesus and the apostles all baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we too must be baptized "calling on His name" (Acts 22:16)

Acts 22:16 (NLT)

'What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.'

How should we baptize?

- Is it OK to be rebaptized in Jesus' name if I was baptized another way?

How should we baptize?

- Not only is it OK...you **must** be rebaptized in His name, like John's disciples did (Acts 19:1-6) – your salvation is too important!

Acts 19:1-6 (ERV)

¹ While Apollos was in the city of Corinth, Paul was visiting some places on his way to Ephesus. In Ephesus he found some other followers of the Lord.

Acts 19:1-6 (ERV)

² He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" These followers said to him, "We have never even heard of a Holy Spirit!"

Acts 19:1-6 (ERV)

3 Paul asked them, "So what kind of baptism did you have?" They said, "It was the baptism that John taught."

Acts 19:1-6 (ERV)

⁴ Paul said, "John told people to be baptized to show they wanted to change their lives. He told people to believe in the one who would come after him, and that one is Jesus."

Acts 19:1-6 (ERV)

5 When these followers heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:1-6 (ERV)

6 Then Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came on them. They began speaking different languages and prophesying.

How should we baptize?

- There is only one correct way to be baptized (Ephesians 4:5) – you have to make sure you were baptized the right way!

Ephesians 4:5 (ERV)

There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.