

Lesson 7 – Baptism

INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson we discover that overcoming sin is essential to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Another important aspect of growing your relationship with Jesus Christ is a proper understanding of baptism. This lesson will help us understand the significance of baptism by answering four questions.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

Baptism doesn't make someone a Christian. It's a way of showing others that you have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

Acts 18:8

According to the Scriptures, we begin our relationship with Jesus Christ by grace through faith, not by baptism. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of an inward reality that took place when we received Jesus Christ as the forgiver of our sins and leader of our lives.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible clearly teaches the importance of baptism. Read the following verses to discover some reasons we should be baptized.

Matthew 28:19, 20

Matthew 3:13-17

John 14:15

Baptism is the starting point of a life of obedience to Jesus Christ. When we make the decision to be baptized, we're not only following the example of Jesus, we're also proving the sincerity of our love for Him.

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HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

There is a lot of discussion over the way a person should be baptized. Some churches teach it's by sprinkling, others by pouring, and some by immersion. Read the following verses to discover how people were baptized according to the Scriptures.

Matthew 3:13-16

Acts 8:36-39

The biblical method of baptism is by immersion. Jesus was baptized by immersion, in water, as was every other baptism that is recorded in the Scriptures. To baptize means "to dip, to immerse, to be placed into, or to submerge." Immersion is the only method of baptism that portrays the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism only has meaning for those who have received Jesus Christ as the forgiver of their sins and the leader of their lives.

Acts 2:40, 41

Acts 8:12, 13

Acts 18:7, 8

According to the Scriptures, people were baptized AFTER beginning their relationship with Jesus Christ. We should be baptized at our first opportunity after understanding the commandment and purpose of baptism.

CONCLUSION

Obedience is a significant step in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. By our willingness to be baptized, we demonstrate an attitude of submission and deepen our relationship to Christ. Conversely, if we're unwilling to submit to Christ's command to be baptized, we will eventually struggle with other areas of obedience in our relationship to Christ.

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HOMEWORK

If you haven't been baptized but want to be, here are some steps you can take to begin the process:

1. Call the church office – 330.602.5600 and let them know you want to be baptized.
2. Send an e-mail to Dawn Lee - dlee@newpointe.org and let her know you want to be baptized.

If you haven't been baptized but have concerns, fears, or questions, here are some steps you can take to further the process:

1. Talk with someone you know who has already been baptized. Ask if they had fears or concerns about taking this step and how they overcame them. Ask them to pray with you about the challenges you're facing regarding baptism.
2. If you have unanswered questions regarding what the Scriptures teach about baptism, schedule an appointment with a pastor or talk with the person who taught you this lesson. Be honest with them about your questions or any unresolved issues you have regarding baptism.
3. Pray! Since Jesus asked us to take this step, be sure to talk with Him about your concerns, fears, and questions. Ask Him for courage to overcome your fears and understanding to move beyond your concerns. Ask Him for wisdom and answers to your questions about baptism.