

## #3: Baptism: The First Step

---

### What about Infant baptism?

There are two problems with baby baptism.

- 1) There is no command or example anywhere in the Bible for the baptizing of babies.
- 2) Infant baptism confuses the salvation issue.

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.* Ephesians 2:8–9, NLT

### What does Jesus' baptism show us?

*Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.* Matthew 3:13–16, NLT

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* Matthew 28:18–20, NLT

## Should every believer be baptized?

**Notice the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) above. Why is the order of commands important?**

**What's a disciple?**

*Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. Acts 2:40–41, NLT*

*The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?" So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:34–38, NLT*

*The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God. Acts 16:29–34, NLT*

## What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism is an outward demonstration of something that has happened to us inwardly.

*For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. Colossians 2:12, NLT*

The word "baptism" in the Greek language literally means "to be placed into" or "going down into" or "dipping into the water".



Baptism is a powerful statement with power symbolism. Therefore, the most appropriate mode of baptism is total immersion.

## Would should you do if you were baptized before you believed?

*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." "Then what baptism did you experience?" he asked. And they replied, "The baptism of John." Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus." As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:1–5, NLT*

## Who can baptize you?

Any believe who has been baptized themselves.

## Who public does baptism need to be?

## Your response this week:

1. Is there any reason why you should not be baptized?
2. When would you like to be baptized?
3. Who would you like to baptize you?
4. Share this lesson with someone who needs to hear it.