

LESSON 17

The Who, How, and Why of Baptism

6: Baptism

Executive Summary

Who should be baptized? Those who have consciously placed their faith in Christ — "believer's baptism." How? By immersion, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Why? Out of obedience to Christ, as a public declaration of faith, and as a testimony of the inward transformation God has already worked in the heart.

Key Terms

Believer's Baptism	Baptism received after personal faith in Christ as a public confession of belonging to Him.
Immersion	Being placed under water in baptism as a picture of burial and raised as a picture of new life in Christ.
Obedience	A willing response to God's authority that puts His commands into practice through faith.
Testimony	A public declaration of what God has done, including baptism's visible confession of faith in Christ.

Key Verses

English Standard Version (ESV)

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 2:38,41

38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Acts 8:36-38

36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Application Questions

1. According to these passages, who should be baptized?

2. Why is going under the water and coming back up a meaningful picture of new life in Christ?

3. What would you say in a brief testimony about how you came to trust Jesus?

4. If you have not been baptized as a believer, what is your next step?
