

Oxford Baptist Church – January 24, 2016. Pastor Robin W. Pifer
Series: Basic Essentials – “Baptism” Matt 3:13-17; Acts 2:38-41

My personal Story ...

The Example of Jesus to Follow. Matt 3:13-17

The Example of the Early Church. Acts 2:38-41

The Command of Jesus to be baptized after Belief. Matt 28:18-20;
Acts 8:12

What is Baptism?

The word Baptism in English is actually a transliteration of the Greek word “baptizo” which translated means “to immerse”, “to dip”, or “plunge” (Acts 8:38-39).

Baptism is the public testimony of someone who has repented of sin and trusted in the saving work of Jesus Christ. Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ in a believer’s life. (Romans 6:4; 1Cor 15:3-4; Gal 3:27; Col 2:12; 2Cor 5:17)

Who is to be Baptized?

Does Baptism make me a Christian or Save Me? No.

- Understanding Religious History. (Eph 2:8-10; Acts 2:41; Acts 10:44-48).
- Understand that Baptism of any kind does not save us. (Lk 23:39-43; 1Peter 3:21-22; Titus 3:4-7)
- Understand that Baptism identifies us with Christ and a local body of believers. Mark 16:16; Acts 4:4; Acts 2:21; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10

Why are people not baptized?

- People do not know the teaching of the Bible.
- People are spiritually proud.
- People are indifferent – baptism is just no big deal.

- People are conflicted because of sin or hypocrisy.
- People are fearful about what family would say by denying their religious tradition.
- People have just waited too long.
- People do not know Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Why is Baptism important for a follower of Jesus Christ?

- “Going Public” as a Follower of Jesus Christ.
- It Pictures Redemption.
- It demonstrates the Lordship of Christ.
- It is humbling. Risky. You Pay a Price.
- Powerful Testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- It identifies us with a local church – ordination to join together in worship, fellowship and service.
- Spiritual Blessing by the Holy Spirit.

What does Jesus want us to do about Baptism? What about you?

- Jesus commanded the early disciples to baptize new disciples. Matt 28; Matt 10:32-34; John 14:15

Life Group Questions

1. Take time as a group to read and discuss the example of Jesus’ baptism and the early church.
2. Why is baptism after believe a priority in evangelical churches?
3. How does the Greek word clarify the meaning of Baptism? What is baptism?
4. Who are to be baptized according to the scriptures? Does baptism save us?
5. Review the definition of baptism, discussing the scriptures starting with Romans 6:4 and how baptism is the testimony of our faith in Christ.
6. Discuss the points of why people are not baptized?
7. Discuss the reasons for a follower to be baptized?