

THE BIG IDEA: Baptism is one of the first steps of obedience when we're born again.

The Take-Off

As a quick reminder, being born again isn't religious.

It's literally being born into a Kingdom and a new way of life, just like if any of us were reborn into another country. Our clothes, our language, our appearance, our diet - everything would be different.

So, this summer we're taking the time to talk about things that will be in our lives when we're born again.

What does our new life look like?

Last week was a far-reaching foundation about how being born again doesn't mean you walked to an altar 30 years ago and never changed.

Being born again must lead to transformation because we're submitting to a new Lord.

We ran our own lives - and often ran them into the ground - but now Jesus is the Lord.

Being born again isn't just about being saved. It's also about being submitted.

With that reminder, let's talk about baptism.

What's the big deal about baptism? Here are a few to get us started...

[[VIDEO Baptism compilation](#)]

1. Why get baptized?

- a. First, because Jesus said to
- b. [Matthew 28:18-19 \(NLT\)](#) / baptizing is part of our commission
- c. [Mark 16:16 \(NLT\)](#) / being baptized is part of the salvation process
- d. Now, baptism doesn't save us (more on that in a bit), but **baptism is one of the first steps of obedience when we're born again.**
- e. Another reason to be baptized is that Jesus was
- f. [Matthew 3:13-16 \(NLT\)](#)
- g. If Jesus was baptized and He told us to be baptized, then "why get baptized" is the wrong question.
- h. "Why am I not baptized?" is the right question.
 - Fear
 - Embarrassment
 - Caring more about what others think than what Jesus thinks
- i. [Matthew 10:32-33 \(NLT\)](#) is a strong response to those excuses

2. What is baptism?

- a. It's a public display of a personal decision
- b. Just like I stood in front of people on my wedding day and declared my love for and commitment to Wendy, our baptism does the same about us and Jesus
- c. The one who thinks it's just about getting wet has missed the whole point
- d. That's like a person saying that marriage is just a piece of paper - then why not go ahead and get married? Why let "just a piece of paper" stop you?
- e. Because it's about so much more than paper. It's about commitment.
- f. In the same way, baptism is so much more than getting wet. It's also about commitment.
- g. It's a declaration of who Jesus is (alive and victorious over sin) and a declaration of our commitment to live in that reality (alive and victorious over sin)
- h. [Romans 6:1-4 \(NLT\)](#)
- i. When we are born again and baptized, we re-enact the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and renew our commitment to live out the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

3. Do I have to be baptized to be saved?

- a. No, but you need to be obedient to be saved.
- b. Remember our Big Idea: baptism is one of the first steps of obedience when we're born again.
- c. It isn't a step of salvation. It's a step of obedience.
- d. People are saved without baptism:
 - Thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43)

- People on deathbeds
- People in car accidents and airplane crashes
- e. The black box theory (People tend to die the way they live)
- f. Living in unwillingness to bow to the Lordship of Jesus decreases the likelihood of bowing in our death
- g. This should be carefully considered, because many think they will “do what they want” and then repent at the end
- h. That's a dangerous game of eternity roulette

The Landing

Back to our last question, “Do we have to be baptized to be saved?”

The answer, of course, is no, but we need to be obedient

If Jesus said to be baptized and we are unwilling, then that points to a heart that hasn't bowed to Him as Lord

Just like a man and a woman saying they love one another but don't need to be married to be together devalues the covenant of marriage, so a believer saying they love Jesus but don't need to be baptized devalues the death and resurrection of Jesus

Far from a “have to,” publicly declaring our love for and commitment to Jesus through baptism is a “get to!”

If you've never taking part in this step or have before and today realize you had no idea what it meant, your next step is signing up for our next baptism service.

Follow the instructions on the screen. Don't tell yourself that you'll do it later.

Do it now. Simple obedience leads to supernatural outcomes.

Let's pray