

## FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

### Lesson 6: I AM A CHRISTIAN - THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson to learn the importance of Water baptism. We will learn from the Bible what water baptism is, why every believer should receive water baptism, and the method for receiving water baptism.

#### **I. WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?**

##### **A. The meaning of the word 'Baptism'.**

1. A Greek word that means to completely submerge. In the days the Bible was written this Greek word was a common word used to describe dyeing a cloth to change the color. The cloth was completely submerged into the dye thus completely changing the color of the cloth.

##### **B. Water Baptism is our public identification with Christ. We publicly announce our faith in Jesus Christ.**

##### **C. Water Baptism is an outward expression of an inward experience.**

1. When you believed in Jesus there was a change that took place in your spirit man and you received a baptism at that time.
2. There are three primary baptisms in the life of the Christian.
  1. When you were saved you were baptized into Christ. Romans 6:3-6
  2. After a person is saved they receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4
  3. Also, after a person is saved they are to receive water baptism. Acts 8:36-38
3. Baptized into Christ:
  1. **Romans 6:3-6** - 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. NKJV
  2. When you believed in Jesus you were baptized into Christ. You were completely submerged into Christ and just like the color of a cloth is completely change you to were completely changed in your spirit.
  3. In the eyes of God because you were baptized into Christ then what happened to Christ happened to you. This is why the Bible says you died with Christ, were buried with Christ, and were raised with Christ.
4. Therefore Water Baptism Represents Four Things
  1. Baptism represents our dying to the old sin nature - Christian/nature change.
  2. Baptism represents the burial of that old sin nature - going under the water.
  3. Baptism represents becoming a brand new person on the inside - coming up out of the water.

4. Baptism represents our being cleansed from sin – as water cleanses the body so the Holy Spirit cleansed our spirit of sin when we were baptized into Christ.
5. Water Baptism is a public declaration of your faith in Jesus Christ. Water baptism is also an outward demonstration of an inward spiritual experience that took place within you when you received Jesus as your Savior. It represents your identification with Christ and dying from our old sinful life and being buried with Christ, and receiving a new life through the resurrection of Christ.

**D. Water Baptism does not save you. No.**

1. **Romans 10:9-10** - 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. NKJV

**II. WHY SHOULD ALL CHRISTUANS RECEIVE WATER BAPTISM?**

**A. All Christians should follow Jesus in Water Baptism because He commanded us to do so. Jesus commanded to baptize all.**

1. **Matthew 28:18-20** - 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. NKJV

**III. HOW DO WE RECEIVE WATER BAPTISM?**

- A. The word "baptism" is a Greek word that means to submerge. Therefore when a person receives water baptism they are to be completely submerged into water.
- B. **Matthew 28:19** "baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy" Spirit.

**Conclusion:** We have seen from God's Word what water baptism is, why and how we are baptized in water. Every believer should obey Jesus and be willing to make a public deceleration of your faith in Jesus through water baptism. At RBCB we schedule water baptism two time a year. The next baptism will be\_\_\_\_\_. (The one teaching the new believer should have the dates for the next time their local church has scheduled water baptism.

READING ASSIGNMENT: Acts 10:44-48, Matthew 3:13-16

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COMPREHENSION TEST: For instructor with answers

1. Why should all Christians be water baptized?  
Because Jesus commanded to baptize all who believe in Him.
  
2. When Christians are water baptized who are they publicly identifying with?  
Jesus Christ.
  
3. Does water baptism save us?  
No.
  
4. What does water baptism represent?
  1. Baptism represents our dying to the old sin nature.
  2. Baptism represents the burial of that old sin nature.
  3. Baptism represents becoming a brand new person on the inside.
  4. Baptism represents our being cleansed from sin.
  
5. What does the original Greek word for “baptism” mean?  
To be completely submerged.

