

OBEDIENCE

Baptism / Obedience

Introduction:

This week Matt brings us a single message on **Baptism - Obedience**. When you accept Jesus, you are clothed in Christ, once you're clothed in Christ the Bible gives you washing instructions.

Once you've become a Christian, what are the washing instructions? Why is baptism important? What does baptism actually mean? What does the Bible say about baptism? Why is this a step that Jesus commands you to take?

Questions:

1. Why is it important that the Christians life is all about obedience? Do you believe that obedience to God brings joy? What does obedience have to do with baptism? How is baptism a decision followed by an action? **Acts 2:38; Acts 18:8**
2. Why is baptism a sign of identification? How is baptism identifying with Jesus, His crucifixion, His burial & His resurrection? Is that really saying that you are not ashamed, that you are proud to call yourself a Christian?
3. **The Baby Question** - why is this an important question about baptism? What does the Bible say about baptism? What does it say about infant baptism? Why does it make no difference at all to the baby being baptized? **Matthew 28:19**
4. **The Clorox Question** - does baptism wash away all your sin? Does baptism get you to heaven? What is baptism a symbol of? How is baptism like a wedding

ring, an outward sign of an inward relationship? **Ephesians 2:8**

5. **The Attorney Question** - can a person get to heaven without being baptized? How can you know for sure that it isn't required? If it isn't required, what should your motivation be to get baptized? **Luke 23:42-43**

6. **The H₂O Question** - what is the water question? What does the Greek word "baptizo" mean? How is baptism by immersion a picture of your salvation? **Mark 1:9-10**

7. **The Mechanics Question** - if you agree to be baptized, what exactly will happen? As a Christian, how can that be one of the most impactful things you will ever do?

Key takeaway: Obedience to God brings joy. Baptism doesn't save you, it's an outward sign of an inward relationship. You are saved by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and by making Him Lord of your life. If you've accepted Jesus but never been baptized, isn't it time to take this step of obedience and sign up?

Summary:

- Obedience - to God brings joy & fullness of life as we submit our lives to Jesus, it's decision followed by action
- Identification - with Jesus, His death, burial & resurrection; your saying you're not ashamed of Jesus
- The Baby Question - the Bible says nothing about infant baptism
- The Clorox Question - baptism is an outward sign of an inward relationship
- The Attorney Question - baptism isn't a requirement to get to heaven
- The H₂O Question - baptism comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means to dip, immerse or cover
- The Mechanics Question - the whole process at Grace only takes about 2 minutes