

Doctrine of the Church, Lesson 6
Baptism, Part 2: Who Should be Baptized?

Review: Definition of Baptism

“Baptism is a church’s act of affirming and portraying a believer’s union with Christ by immersing him or her in water, and a believer’s act of publicly committing him or herself to Christ and his people, thereby uniting a believer to the church and marking off him or her from the world.”¹

I. Believer’s baptism

- A. *Every believer should be baptized* - Christ commands it (Matt. 28)
- B. *Only believers should be baptized* - Baptism assumes salvation (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 1:13; Col. 2:12)
- C. *Baptism should be tied as closely to conversion as possible* - As people become believers throughout the book of Acts, they are almost immediately baptized (Acts 2 (Pentecost), 8 (Ethiopian Eunuch), 9 (Saul/Paul’s conversion), 10 (the conversion of Cornelius and his household), etc.).

II. What about infant baptism?

- A. *Baptismal regeneration argument for infant baptism*
- B. *Covenantal argument for infant baptism*

III. What about children who profess faith? (Can we put an age limit on baptism?)

IV. Practical Conclusion: How do we know if we should baptize someone?

- A. Is it clear that the individual has become a believer? Does their profession of faith seem credible? Do they genuinely seem to understand the gospel?
- B. Is the individual ready to begin discipleship and all that it demands?
- C. Is the individual ready for church membership?

¹ Bobby Jamieson, *Understanding Baptism*, Church Basics series, p. 6.