



Reasons Not to be Baptized

This lesson is a follow-up to the previous one on *“The Basics of Baptism.”*

In it we outlined the **3 P's** of scriptural, and therefore, New Testament Baptism:

the ***right Person***- a penitent believer;

the ***right Purpose***- for the remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ; and

the ***right Pactice***- immersion/burial in water.

Now, I'd like us to consider...

Reasons Not to be Baptized

- Don't be alarmed- I didn't switch sides to play for the other team on this one!
- But, when we really know *genuine* baptism- the right *Person*, *Purpose*, and *Practice*, the *counterfeits* become obvious also.
- So let's spend a few minutes identifying them as well.

Reasons Not to be Baptized

As was suggested in the previous lesson, you may not be the **right *Person*** to be baptized. It could be because:

- **You're simply not mature enough yet, Acts 8:12.**

While no one is suggesting that you have to be “21 and legal,” baptism / discipleship is a ***mature*** thing to do, and comes with ***mature*** obligations, Luke 14:25-33.

Certainly, “The gospel is for all” as we sometimes sing, but it is for all of sufficient age and maturity to legitimately answer its call, 1Thess.2:13; 2Thess.2:13-14.

Reasons Not to be Baptized

As was suggested in the previous lesson, you may not be the **right *Person*** to be baptized. It could also be because:

- **You simply do not yet know enough to truly be a *penitent believer*, Acts 19:1-5.**

These were good and well-intentioned people in Ephesus. They had done all they *knew* to do, but were not *ready* until they understood “the rest of the story” with regard to N.T. baptism.

Children may “believe” in Jesus Christ, but may believe in fictitious holiday characters also.

All need understand “sin” and “salvation” in order to become *penitent believers*, Acts 8:9ff.

Reasons Not to be Baptized

Then too, you may not have the **right Purpose** in mind to be baptized. Some desire baptism to:

- **Please someone else- like parents, a spouse, or even friends.**

Baptism is between you and God, and no one else. It is about your salvation! **Acts 8:27-39.**

What if your baptism put you at odds with your family and friends? Would you do it anyway? **Matt.10:32-39.**

Unless you understand “the cost / value” of being a Christian, you may not have the right **Purpose** in mind, **John 6:1-2,3-15,26,30,36,65-66.**

Reasons Not to be Baptized

Then too, you may not have the **right Purpose** in mind to be baptized. Some desire baptism because:

➤ **It is the “right” thing to do.**

It is absolutely the “right” thing to do, but only if done for the “right” **Purpose**.

Children “brought up in the church” know baptism is “right”- but may not yet understand *why*, **Matt.3:1-9**.

Unless baptism is prompted by *personal conviction* of sin, it is for the wrong **Purpose**, **Acts 2:37**.

Reasons Not to be Baptized

Then too, you may not have the **right Purpose** in mind to be baptized. Some desire baptism because:

➤ **“You can’t go to heaven unless you’re baptized.”**

This is closely akin to the previous point of baptism being the “right” thing to do.

Will Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and those other men and women of faith in **Heb.11** go to heaven without being baptized? Of course they will, but unless we know why this is so, we *may not* understand the real **Purpose** of baptism.

Mark 16:16 requires faith and baptism for salvation, but baptism without *true faith* is just getting wet.

Reasons Not to be Baptized

Finally, you may not have the **right *Practice*** in mind to be baptized if:

➤ **“I don’t want to get my hair wet.”**

The only way you can be baptized without getting your hair wet **is to not have any hair!**

That may be a silly response, but it is nonetheless true. If someone is more concerned with wet hair than their soul’s salvation, **Acts 8:38**; **Rom.6:4**, they understand neither the ***Purpose*** nor ***Practice*** of baptism!

I would also add that if they want to wait for their friends or family to see them be baptized, they also likely do not understand baptism at all, **Acts 16:25,33**.

Reasons Not to be Baptized

There are reasons not to be baptized, if:

- You're not mature enough yet to truly understand and obey the gospel's call.
- You simply do not know enough yet to be a *penitent believer*.
- You're trying to please your parents, spouse, or friends.
- You think it's just the "right" thing to do.
- You think "You can't go to heaven unless you're baptized."

But you are the "**right**" *Person* for baptism if you understand its *Purpose* and *Practice*!

