Series: Systematic Theology Part 4
Title: Baptism
Purpose: To examine who should be baptized, how it should be done, and what baptism means.
Date: March 8, 2026

I. The mode and meaning of baptism
   A. Greek word "baptizo" means to plunge, dip or immerse something in water
   B. Immersion seems to be the method indicated in most NT baptisms
   C. Symbolic meaning of the death, burial, and resurrection requires immersion
   D. Two other common modes

II. The subjects of baptism - believers since it is the symbol of the beginning of a new life
   A. Argument from NT passages
   B. Argument from meaning of baptism
   C. Roman Catholic view - all infants must be baptized
   D. Protestant paedobaptist view - infants of believing parents are baptized

III. The effect of baptism
   A. The blessing of obedience on the part of the individual who is baptized
   B. Joy that comes through public confession of one's faith
   C. Encouragement that comes to all those who witness the event

IV. The necessity of baptism
   A. Matthew 28:19 - baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
   B. Mark 16:16 - those who believe and are baptized - general statement
   C. Luke 23:43 - thief was not baptized but entered Paradise with Jesus
   D. Justification occurs at the point of our saving faith, not at our water baptism, which always occurs later
   E. Baptism is not necessary for salvation but is necessary to be obedient to Jesus

V. The age of baptism
   A. Old enough to give a believable profession of faith
   B. When there is evidence of a changed life and the beginning of spiritual growth, baptism is appropriate

VI. Remaining questions
   A. Do churches need to be divided over baptism?
   B. Who can baptize?

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Outline taken from *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, 1994 edition