


SOHAM BAPTIST CHURCH


# Believer's Baptism

## Session 4



1

### Why shouldn't I be Baptised?

 Acts 8:26-40

- The title of this session is the question that the Ethiopian Treasury official asked Philip after he heard the good news about Jesus.
- Philip's reply backs up what we have already discovered about Believer's Baptism.


2

- If we have accepted Jesus as our personal Saviour and desire to obey Him, then we may be baptised.
- However, there are many questions and obstacles that stand in the way of people making the final decision to go through the waters:

3


### I'm too old/young

- The passage we have read shows that Philip was not concerned with the man's age, but his understanding and acceptance of God's love shown in Jesus' death on the cross.



4

- Believer's Baptism is a very special and one-off occasion in the Christian's life and so there may be occasions when young or old are encouraged to wait for baptism until they are able to more fully understand it's implications.
- Your age of ability to understand not in itself a barrier.



5

### I have been a Christian too long

- For some Christians, to turn round after many years of following Christ and be baptised is like admitting to a deficient faith in the past.
- **THIS IS NOT THE CASE!**

6

- Baptism is another step in our pilgrimage of faith and obedience.
- To show that someone is willing to take this step of obedience later in the Christian life will in itself be a powerful witness to others and a blessing to them personally.

7

I'm too ill to get into the Baptistry

- The water in a church Baptistry is always nice and warm. Where mobility is a problem, this can be overcome.
- There have been occasions where the candidate has been baptised whilst strapped to a stretcher.


8

- Where total immersion is not possible, then Baptism can be carried out by pouring water over the head.
- This in no way detracts from the significance of the moment and God will richly bless those whose obedience is so costly.

9

I'm scared of being in front of everyone

- Jesus never told us that following Him was going to be easy. It is often things that take so much courage that are the greatest moments of our experience and help us to grow.



10

- Some people also have a fear of going under water and this step of baptism is particularly costly for them.
- When the writer of this course was baptised, he was shaking like a leaf and nearly slipped head first off the steps into the water!

11

- God will honour your desire to obey in Baptism and the joy and peace of the occasion will remain with you.

12

### Do I have to give my testimony?

- Many people find it difficult to speak in public and shy away at the thought of having to tell a crowd of people how they came to the point of Baptism.



13

- Help and encouragement is always given so that the person being baptised will speak, however briefly.
- However, if you are too nervous, appropriate questions can be asked which invite short answers.

14

### I was Christened as a child

- As we have already seen, believer's baptism is obedience in response to a personal faith in Jesus. Belief must come first.



15

- As a baby you were unable to make that decision of faith, and therefore 'Infant' and 'Believer's' Baptism are quite separate and different.
- Many people who are baptised as believers were also christened as infants. Therefore this should not stop you now.

16

### I have been confirmed

- Many people's confirmation was, and remains, a very meaningful part of their spiritual experience. Believer's Baptism is not meant to detract from any of that experience and is something completely different.
- It is still a matter of obedience to Christ as set out in the Scriptures.

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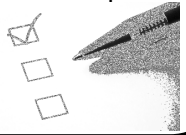
### Discussion Point:

- What other questions or reservations have you got regarding Believer's Baptism?

18

### What happens next?

- This course has set out the meaning and significance of Baptism.
- Now you have to make the decision as to whether you want to take this step.



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