

BIBLE BAPTISM ("Should my baby be baptized?")

INTRODUCTION

Many problems in the religious world today exist because of man's appeal to different rules of authority: majority rule, a board or council dictates procedures, convention decision, one person has absolute rule, one's conscience or feelings, etc.

Let the Bible speak on this subject.

1. BAPTISM WAS PRACTICED IN THE N.T. CHURCH

(Mtt. 28:19) "baptizing them" (Acts 2:38) "be baptized" (Acts 8:12) "they were baptized"
(Acts 8:38) "he baptized him" (Acts 10:48) "commanded them to be baptized"
(Acts 16:15) "Lydia was baptized" (v33) "and was baptized, he and all his"
(Acts 18:8) "and Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized"
(Acts 22:16) "arise, and be baptized"

2. WHAT IS BAPTISM? (Eph. 4:5) "one baptism"

Biblical description of baptism:

(John 3:23) "baptizing ... because there was **much water** there ... "
(Mark 1:9-10) "was baptized of John in Jordan. And coming up out of the **water**"
(Acts 8:38) "they went down into the **water** ... and he baptized him"
(Rms. 6:4) "we are **buried** with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was **raised up from the dead**" (v5) "**planted**" (v17) "ye have obeyed from the heart that **form of doctrine**"
(Col. 2:12) "**Buried** with him in baptism ... **risen** ..."

Greek definitions:

(Gr. baptizo) - immersion; submersion and emergence; dip; plunge; overwhelm.
(Gr. cheo) - pour
(Gr. rantizo) - sprinkle

Biblical baptism is for one to be immersed in water.

3. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM? (the single action accomplishes much)

(John 3:5) "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot **enter into the kingdom of God**" (1 Cor. 12:13) "For by one Spirit are we all **baptized into one body**"
(Col. 1:18) "And he is the head of the body, **the church**" (also: Eph. 1:22-23)

(Acts 2:38) "... repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**"
(also: Acts 5:32; Gal. 4:5-8)

(Mark 16:16) "He that believeth and is baptized shall **be saved** ... "
(1 Peter 3:21) "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now **save us** ... "

2) The infant cannot obey the prerequisites of being baptized.

Is the infant able to believe the preaching of the kingdom and Jesus, repenting, and making a confession of their belief that Jesus is God's Son?

(Mtt. 28:19-20) "Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, **baptizing them ... teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ... "

3) The infant cannot obey the immediate requirements of the new Christian:

Consider: (Rms. 12:1-2) "present your bodies a living sacrifice ... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"
(Col. 3:5-10)

(Gal. 6:2) "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"

When partaking of the Lord's supper: (1 Cor. 11:25) "do this in remembrance of me ... (v28) "but let a man examine himself ... "

You may think of other items involved in Christian living that an infant cannot do.

4) Christianity is likened to infants.

(John 3:3, 5) "born again" (Mtt. 18:3) "except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"

(1 Cor. 14:20) "in malice be ye children" (1 Peter 2:2) "as newborn babes"

If infants are sinners, then we are being exhorted to be like sinners.

The spiritual condition of those who enter the kingdom are compared to the purity of children.

5) Infants are not born in sin.

(Ecc. 7:29) "God made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions"

(Ezek. 28:15) "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day thou was created, till unrighteousness was found in thee."

Adam, just by being created, was not guilty (not a sinner); sin was committed by disobeying God's law.

Sin is not inherited: (Ezek. 18:14-22)

6) Baptizing infants was not practiced in the N.T. church: (Acts 8:12) "... they were baptized, both men and women."

7) If infants were born with sin, they could not be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:20)

"Reconcile" implies a union, separation, and reunion.

Infants are born OK, then sin separates (Isa. 59:2), and the gospel messages brings us back into an OK relationship with God.

Infants are not born already separated from God.

(Gal. 3:27) "For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**"
(2 Tim. 3:15) "... **salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**"

4. WHO MAY BE BAPTIZED?

Answer: those who hear the word of God, believe it, repent, and confess their faith.

(Acts 8:12) "But when **they believed Philip preaching** the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized, both men and women**"

(Acts 8:35-38) "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached unto him Jesus**. ... See, here is water; what hinders me to be baptized? Philip said, **If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God ... and he baptized him.**"

(Acts 18:8) "... and many of the Corinthians **hearing believed, and were baptized**"

(Acts 2:37-38) "Now when **they heard this, they were pricked in their heart**, and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you ...**"

Now, having met the pre-requisites to baptism, be baptized, and (Rms. 6:4) "... even so we also should **walk in newness of life.**"

(1 Peter 2:1) "**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby**"

(2 Peter 1:4-8)

5. WHERE MAY I BE BAPTIZED?

Anywhere there is enough water to be immersed: pool, river, ocean, etc.

6. WHEN MAY I BE BAPTIZED?

(Heb. 4:15) "While it is said, **Today** if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts ... "

One does not need to wait for an appointed time, a special meeting, or a Sunday.
One may be baptized any day of the week and at any time of day.

7. DO WE PRACTICE INFANT BAPTISM? No

1) The infant has not committed sin.

(James 4:17) "To him therefore that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin"

(1 John 3:4) "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law"

(1 John 5:17) "All unrighteousness is sin"