

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

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" (Acts, 18:8) "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"

Bible 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** in the likeness of his death" (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. raintizo) - sprinkle; rain.

3. WHAT DOES BAPTISM ACCOMPLISH?

(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, be baptized ... **for the remission of sins** ... **receive the gift** of the Holy Spirit"
(Acts 5:32; Gal. 4:5-8)
(Mark 16:16) "He that believes and is baptized shall **be saved** ..."
(1 Peter 3:21) "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now **save us** ... "
(Acts 2:47) "the Lord **added to the church** daily such as should be **saved**"
(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?

Summary: those who hear the word of God (comprehend), believe it, repent, confess their faith.

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

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

(Acts 8:35-38) "Then Philip ... **preached unto him Jesus** ... 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**"

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

(2 Cor. 5:17) "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature** ... "
(1 Peter 2:1) "**As newborn babes**, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"

5. WHEN / WHERE MAY I BE BAPTIZED?

At any time, and anywhere, where there is sufficient water in which to be immersed (baptized).

6. WHY WE DO NOT BAPTIZE INFANTS:

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"

2) The baby is not born in sin (theory of "original sin")

(Ecc. 7:29) "God made man upright; but they 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), till sin was committed by disobeying God's commandment.

3) God does not give a newborn baby a depraved spirit laden with sin.

(Heb. 12:9) says that God is "the Father of our spirits" and
(Ecc. 12:7) "... the spirit shall return unto God who gave it"

(James 1:17) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, ... from the Father ... "

4) From which parent would the supposed "original sin" come?

Not from the father: (Ezek. 18:20) "The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not inherit (bear) the iniquity of the father ... "

Not from the mother: Jesus was born of an earthly mother (Gal. 4:4), and He was without sin (1 Peter 2:22).

Not from our spirit: it makes God the father of our sin since He gave us our spirit. (absurd)

5) A baby born with “original sin” could not be reconciled to God.

(2 Cor. 5:20) “... we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God”

“Reconcile” implies a union, separation, and reunion.

The baby is in union with God, then sin separates (Isa. 59:1-2), and reunion happens when the gospel is preached and obeyed
(2 Cor. 5:18-19) “the ministry of reconciliation” “the word of reconciliation”

6) God’s view of children:

(Deut. 1:39) “Moreover **your little ones** ... **your children**, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in ... they shall possess it”

(Jeremiah 2:34) “in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor **innocents**”
(Jer. 19:4) “ ... and have filled this place with the blood of **innocents**”

(Ezek. 16:20-21) “... you have taken your sons and daughters ... have slain **my children** ... “

(2 Sam. 12:14-23) (v23) “... **I shall go to him**, but he shall not return to me”

(Matt. 19:13-14) “... the **little children**, and forbid them not, to come to me:
for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Mtt. 18:1-5; Luke 18:15-17)

(Mark 10:13-16) “... took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and **blessed them**”

7) The baby, infant, little ones, cannot obey the pre-requisites of being baptized.

Are they capable of comprehending the Bible message of salvation, repenting, confessing their faith that Jesus is God’s Son?

8) The baby, infant, little ones, cannot obey the immediate requirements of a new Christian.

(Rms. 12:1-2) “present your bodies a living sacrifice ... “

(Col. 3:5-10) “Mortify therefore your members ... “

(1 Cor. 11:25) “do this in remembrance of me ... “ (v28) “let a man examine himself”

9) Christianity is likened to babes, infants, children.

(John 3:3, 5) “born again” (1 Peter 2:2) “as newborn babes” (Matt. 18:3) “be converted, and become as little children” (1 Cor. 14:20) “in malice be ye children”

Our becoming Christians is compared to the purity of innocent children.

10) Infant baptism was not practiced in the N.T. church.

(Acts 8:12) “ ... they were baptized, both men and women”

7. WE DO NOT “DEDICATE” AN INFANT TO GOD BY “SPRINKLING”