

Sermon Notes
4/27/2025

BAPTISM AND A BABY

(Matthew 18:1-5)

INTRODUCTION: Reasons why we do not baptize a baby, infant, or young child.

1. No command or example of it in the entire New Testament.
2. To be qualified for baptism, one must be able to receive instruction, believe it, respond accordingly, and make a confession of their faith.

(Matthew 28:19-20) "make disciples ... baptizing them ... teaching them ... "
(Romans 6:17) "... you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine ... "
(Acts 8:36-38) "If you believe with all your heart, you may"
(Acts 18:8) "Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized"

3. The baby is not able to commit sin, has not committed sin.

One of baptism's purposes is to (Acts 22:16) "wash away sin"
(Acts 2:38) "for the remission of sins"

Sin is defined in the Bible as something one commits by violating God's Word.

(James 4:17) "To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin"
(1 John 3:4) "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness"
(1 John 5:17) "All unrighteousness is sin"

4. God did not create a new-born guilty of sin, already guilty at birth.

(Ecclesiastes 7:29) "God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes"
(Ezekiel 28:15) "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you."

Adam and Eve, just by being created by God, were not sinners.
(Genesis 3:13) "The Lord God said, What have you done?"
They committed sin by disobeying God: (Genesis 3:2-3).

5. A baby born with "original sin" could not be "reconciled to God"

(2 Corinthians 5:18) "... has given us the ministry of reconciliation"
(v20) "... we implore on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God"

"Reconcile" - implies a union, then a separation, and a re-union.

If the baby is born with sin, and sin separates (Isaiah 59:1-2),
reconciliation to God cannot take place. Union must be first.

6. God views the baby, children, as "innocent."

(Deuteronomy 1:38-39) "your little ones and your children ... they shall go in"
These will enter the promised land and not die in the wilderness wanderings.

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(Psalm 106:37-38) "... and shed **innocent** blood, the blood of their sons and daughters"
(Jeremiah 2:34) "the poor **innocents**" (Jeremiah 19:4-5) "the **innocents**"
(Ezekiel 16:20-21) "you have slain **My children**"

7. From which parent would the supposed "original sin" come?

Not from the father: (Ezekiel 18:20) "the son shall not bear the guilt of the father"

Not from the mother: Jesus was born of an earthly mother (Galatians 4:4), and
Jesus was without sin, (1 Peter 2:22) "Who committed no sin ... no deceit"

The new-born certainly did not receive a depraved (guilty) spirit **from God:**
(Hebrews 12:9) says that God is "the Father of spirits," and (James 1:17) says
"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above ... from the Father ..."

8. Jesus relates Christianity to birth and little children.

(John 3:5) "I say, unless ^{one} is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God"

Jesus certainly is not relating spiritual birth to a guilt-laden physical birth.
Be spiritually born-again because it frees us from sin, forgives our sins.

It's the purity of the new-born, the innocence of the little children, Jesus relates to.

(Matthew 19:13-14) "Let the **little children** come to Me, and
do not forbid them, **for of such is the kingdom of heaven**"

(Matthew 18:1-5) "**Jesus called a little child to Him ...**
I say, unless you are converted and become as **little children**,
you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven"

(Mark 10:13-16) "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God
as a little child will by no means enter it ..."

Apostle Paul explains: (1 Corinthians 14:20) "... in malice **be babes** ..."

9. Baptizing babies, infants, little children, was not practiced in the New Testament church.

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

10. Those who are taught to be baptized are also taught continued obedience.

(Matthew 28:18-20) "make disciples ... baptizing them ... **teaching them to**
observe all things that I have commanded you ..."

(Acts 2:41-42) "those who received his word **were baptized** ... and **they continued**
steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers"

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