

SHOULD INFANTS BE BAPTIZED?

(Acts 22:1 – 16)

Many disagreements in the religious world exist because of one's appeal to different sources of authority:
one's conscience or feelings; majority rule; a religious board or convention; manual ...

This subject may be understood by letting the Bible be our guide.

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

Commissioned by Jesus to the apostles: (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15-16)
(Acts 2:38) "be baptized" (v41) "were baptized"
(Acts 8:12-13) "both men and women were baptized ... Simon ... was baptized"
(Acts 9:18) " ... and he arose and was baptized"
(Acts 10:48) "and he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord"
(Acts 16:15) "when she and her household were baptized"
(Acts 16:33) "and immediately he and all his family were baptized"
(Acts 18:8) "many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized"

2. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptize - Greek word brought into the English language, not translated.
Means to: immerse, submerge and emerge, dip, plunge, bury.

Description: (John 3:23) "much water there ... were baptized"
(Mark 1:9-10) "baptized of John in the Jordan"
(Acts 8:36-38) "they went down into the water ... he baptized him"
(Romans 6:4) "buried ... raised"
(Colossians 2:12) "buried ... raised"

Pour - (Greek: cheo) **Sprinkle** - (Greek: rantizo)

3. WHO MAY BE BAPTIZED?

Those who **are taught**: (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16)
(Acts 8:12) "when they believed Philip preaching ... they were baptized"
(Acts 8:35) "preached unto him Jesus" (v38) "baptized him"
Those who **believe** the teaching about Jesus: (Acts 8:12) (Acts 2:36-38)
Those who **repent**: (Acts 2:38) "repent and be baptized"
Those who **confess their faith** that Jesus is God's Son: (Acts 8:37-38)
Now, be baptized.
And walk in "newness of life" (Romans 6:1-6)

4. WHERE MAY I BE BAPTIZED? - anywhere there is enough water to be immersed, and it may be accomplished anytime.

5. REASONS WE DO NOT BAPTIZE INFANTS (babies, infants, young children)

1) The infant has not committed sin.

Sin is something you commit: (James 4:17; 1 John 3:4)

2) The infant cannot understand the pre-requirements of baptism.

Comprehend the facts of the gospel (be taught), believe (faith), repent ...

3) The infant cannot perform (understand, comprehend) the immediate requirements of Christian living.

When partaking of the Lord's supper: (1 Cor. 11:24-28) "remember ... examine"
(Col. 3:1-3) "Seek ... set your mind" (v8-9) "put off all these things ..."
(Matt. 28:20) "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"

4) The infants are not born with sin (theory of "original sin" is error)

Adam and Eve were created without sin, lived, then violated God's law.
(Ecc. 7:29) "God made man upright, but they sought out many schemes"
(Ezekiel 28:15-16) "perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you ... and you sinned"

5) From whom would "original sin" originate?

Not from God: (Heb. 12:9; Ecc. 12:7; James 1:17)
Not from the father: (Ezekiel 18:20)
Not from the mother: (Gal. 4:4) Jesus was born of an earthly mother and
He was without sin (1 Peter 2:22).

6) The infant born with "original sin" could not be reconciled to God.

(2 Cor. 5:18-20) "... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself ...
be reconciled to God."

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

Newborns begin life in a union with God (innocent),
then, (Isaiah 59:2) "your iniquities have separated you from God,"
now, the "word of reconciliation" brings us back into union (reconciled).

7) There is no command nor example in the N.T. to baptize infants.

It was not practiced in the N.T. church.
(Acts 8:12) "... both men and women were baptized."

CLOSE: read and study the entire verses of Scripture that I have noted in this outline.