

## **Subjects of Baptism**

Baptism is a symbol of beginning the Christian life – an outward expression of an inner change. It should only be given to those who have, in fact, started the Christian life - Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:47-48

It is clear why this view is termed – Believers' Baptism

This, necessarily, excludes infants - Romans 6:3-4 (could this ever apply to an infant?)

## **Mode of Baptism**

Greek word *baptizo* means “to plunge, dip, immerse”

In context, several passages confirm this - Mark 1:5, 1:10, John 3:23, Acts 8:36-39

Immersion is a symbol of union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection

Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12                      “Sprinkling infants” does not match the symbolism

## **Other Views - Paedobaptism (infant baptism)**

**Roman Catholic**     Baptism is necessary for salvation, the act confers saving grace (spiritual new birth), and is, therefore appropriately administered to infants.     There is very little, if any, Biblical support for this view.

**Protestant**     Baptism is rightly administered to infant children of Christian parents.

## **Covenant Argument**

The OT stipulated that male infant children of God's people should be circumcised on the 8th day (Lev 12:3) as an external sign of entry into the covenant community of God by virtue of being born into a Jewish family. This was not a sign that the children were believers in God or that one day they would become believers.

In the New Covenant baptism is parallel to circumcision – an external sign of entry into the covenant community which now is the church. The NT confirms this parallel – Col 2:11-12

It follows, from this view, that it is appropriate to baptise the infant children of Christian believers

However, the Colossians passage is not referencing OT circumcision but the circumcision of Christ. The NT never links baptism with entry into the covenant community

## **Household Baptism Argument**

There are several references to “household baptisms” which would, more than likely, include infants – Acts 16:15, 16:33, 1 Corinthians 1:16                      Support is also drawn from Acts 2:39

The household baptism argument is an inference from silence – there is no explicit reference to infant baptism. Moreover in two of the passages there is evidence of household faith (the whole family had faith which would exclude infants being present) – Acts 16:33-34. 1 Cor 1:16 -> 1 Cor 16:15

## **Summary – What does Baptism do?**

### 1. Believers' Baptism

Symbolises a regeneration (salvation) that has already occurred

### 2. Catholic Baptism

Causes regeneration (salvation)

### 3. Protestant Paedobaptism

Symbolises entry into the covenant community of God (the Church)

Symbolises a regeneration that will occur in the future when the infant is old enough to come to saving faith.



Three things tend to divide Bible believing Christians; The work of the Holy Spirit, End Times, and Baptism. Why? How do we cope with different views?



# Source night

## Baptism



### Baptism before Jesus Hebrew Mikvah=gathered waters

Genesis 1 v9 Waters gathered in one 'Mikvah' Was Earth baptised?

Leviticus 8 v6 15 v5, v7, Cleansing with water

Mayim Chayim, 'Living Water' Leviticus 14 v1-7

Used 1. Regain ritual purity 2. Consecration 3. Convert to Judaism

In First Century Israel, a community of Jews would build Mikvah before the synagogue. Mikvah's were also discovered in the Qumran Community near the Dead Sea.

In Jewish thought, waters represent the waters of the womb, to emerge from the waters is a new birth



### Salvation through water

Waters of flood 1 Peter 3 v20-21

Waters of Red Sea a Mikvah, arising from sea bed to new life freed from slavery of Egypt. 1 Cor 10 v1-2

Waters also provided a separation from past

### Sign of a covenant

Noah Genesis 9 v12-13 Rainbow sign of covenant

Abraham covenant Genesis 15 v6 v17-18

Circumcision Genesis 17 v2 v9-13

Colossians 2 v 9-15 - link circumcision and baptism. We still have signs of covenants e.g. Wedding ring

#### Baptism Quotes

"Baptism separates the type kickers from the car buyers." - Max Lucado

"God's people should be baptised because God commands it, not because some Church requires it." - John R Rice

### John the Baptist

Jewish authorities would have been baffled as to why people would have been baptised.

Sign of repentance Mark 1 v 2-5 Message spread Acts 18 v 25

Jesus was baptised. Matthew 3 v 13-17 Why? 1. He identifies with us. 2. Links water and Spirit.

### Baptism- an instruction

Matthew 28 v 16-20 Acts 2 v38

### Reasons to get baptised

1. Sign of obedience Mark 16 v16 ( Debate- Is Baptism a condition of salvation? )
2. Identification with Jesus Galatians 3 v27
3. Sign of what Spirit has done within us. (Baptism of the Spirit) Luke 3 v16 Acts 10 v44-48
4. Publicly confess our faith and show we are part of the Church 1 Corinthians 12 v 12-13