

# DYERTHOUGHTS

== COMMON SENSE ==  
APOLOGETICS

25 Questions About  
Baptism

Q: Should I be concerned about baptism?

A: YES!!! It is a command in the Scriptures, therefore, if you love God you will desire to do all that he commands (John 14:15). But the difference is that baptism has to do with someone's initial entrance into the Kingdom rather than simple obedience as a Christian to become more like God.

Q: Is baptism a command of God?

A: Yes. Jesus commanded for it to happen to those taught about Him (Mt 28:19). At the first Gospel message ever preached Peter commanded that all the Jews should be baptized (Acts 2:38). Saul, who later became Paul, was commanded by Ananias, who was sent by God, to arise and be baptized (Acts 22:16) so that he could wash away his sins.

Q: If baptism is a command of God has it always been commanded of men?

A: No. Baptism is 'in the name of Jesus' (Acts 2:38). It is a New Testament command and it was not in the Old Testament. It connects us with the death/burial/resurrection of Jesus and therefore any person in the Old Testament could not be baptized because Jesus had not died or rose again yet.

Q: If baptism were once a command has it ever been withdrawn?

A: No. We are still under the New Covenant and as long as we are under this covenant the same rules apply as were stated in the early church

Q: What is baptism?

A: The Greek word means to plunge, dip, or immerse. It is a burial in water (Acts 8:36-39) in the name of aka by the authority of Jesus (Mt 28:19).

Q: Are there different modes of baptism?

A: No. The Bible presents us with a Greek word that means Immerse, it shows us a picture of baptism as a burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-7, Colossians 2:8-15). The only mode we see in Scripture is immersion.

Q: Is it necessary to have witnesses for a baptism for it to be acceptable?

A: No. The only witness that is needed is the Lord God Almighty. The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized on a lonely road by Philip (Acts 8:26-40).

Q: May only certain people baptize others?

A: No. There is no such thing as a special class of Christians. All Christians are saints (1st Peter 2:9). Therefore, all Christians can baptize a sinner.

Q: If baptism is a command, then who is commanded to be baptized?

A: Anyone who is able to hear and understand the Gospel is instructed to obey the terms of pardon and become obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7). To qualify one must hear the Gospel (Mk 16:16), be ready to acknowledge Jesus as Lord (Acts 3:26) and repent of their sins (Acts 2:38). Once they are at this point they are ready to submit to the waters of baptism and appeal to God for a clear conscience (1st Peter 3:21).

Q: Is baptism a command to Christians or to non-Christians?

A: To non-Christians. If someone has been baptized according to the way the Scriptures teach then they are already Christians. If someone has not been baptized then they are not Christians. See another pamphlet entitled "Baptism"

Q: Is baptism for infants?

A: No. One has to believe before baptism (Mark 16:16). A baby cannot believe the message of the Gospel. We also have no examples in the New Testament of a baby being baptized.

Q: Are women allowed to baptize?

A: Yes. If they are a Christian then they are allowed to baptize a sinner. There is nothing in the New Testament which prohibits this action.

Q: Is sprinkling baptism?

A: No. In the Greek language they had a word for sprinkling (rhantizo) but instead always use the word we translate baptize (baptizo) which means to immerse. We also find no examples in the New Testament of anyone being sprinkled as a mode of baptism.

Q: Will baptism in infancy suffice, later on, for adult baptism?

A: No. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6) and Jesus says a person has to believe before they are baptized (Mark 16:16).

Q: How old should one be to be baptized?

A: There is not a specific age stated in Scripture. But since one must believe the Gospel message it seems best that a person should be able to have the mental capacity to understand they are sinners and need to accept the sacrifice of Jesus for their sins. How old a person has to be varies with each child. Personally, and its ONLY MY OPINION, I find it hard to baptize anyone under the age of 10.

Q: What is the aim or purpose of baptism?

A: It is for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). It is the time and place in which God cancels our debt (Colossians 2:12-14). At baptism we are connected to the death/burial/resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:1-7). The Bible says there is NOW no condemnation for those who are 'in Christ' (Rom 8:1) but only tells us one way to get into Christ and that is at baptism (Gal 3:27, Rom 6:3). Therefore when we are baptized we go from lost to saved, sinner to saint, condemned to pardoned.

Q: Does baptism put one into the church?

A: Yes and No. You are not baptized to join a local body. You are baptized to join the body of Christ which is the church (1st Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:22-23). When we are baptized it is God who then adds us to His church (Acts 2:47)

Q: Is an alien sinner saved before he is baptized?

A: No, He is not saved until he is baptized. You cannot be a Christian without having your sins forgiven (Acts 2:38).

Q: Is baptism a condition one must meet to obtain pardon?

A: Yes. See questions #16, 17, and 18 above and the other pamphlet entitled "Baptism".

Q: Will baptism for the wrong reason make baptism worthless?

A: Yes. It does matter what a person believes at the time of baptism. One does not need to have a grand understanding of the Christian faith or all about baptism and its purpose. But one does need to have faith in the working of God (Col 2:12). Also, 1st Peter 3:21 tells us we are appealing to God for a clean conscience at our baptism. If one goes to the waters of baptism and is not asking God to give them a clean conscience then how can we expect God to do that very thing?

Q: Are we to accept into fellowship all who claim to have been immersed?

A: Not necessarily. Even the Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons baptize. Paul even questioned people about their salvation (Acts 19:1-6)

Q: What will happen to those who have been deceived about baptism?

A: God does not tell us. That is for Him to judge. We can only preach and teach what God has revealed to us and that is that baptism is for the forgiveness of sins in order to enter into the Kingdom and he gives us no hope outside of this.

Q: If there is some question about my baptism should I be immersed again?

A: This depends on the nature of the question. I suggest coming to talk to me or one of the elders or other evangelists at Severn Christian Church for a better explanation.

Q: What about the thief on the cross?

A: He was under the Old Covenant. The New Covenant did not start until Jesus died and rose again (Hebrews 9:16). Therefore, he could not be baptized into the death/burial/resurrection of Jesus. See question #3 above.

Q: If baptism is essential to salvation why wasn't Abraham or Moses baptized?

A: For the same reason stated in questions #3 and 24. It is a New Covenant command.