

Theme: In view of the biblical teaching on the New Covenant and water baptism, only those who have personally professed faith in Christ should be water baptized.

I. Discuss Baptism in Polite Company?

- A. Social rule - no politics or religion
- B. Baptism like that among Christians
- C. What I say today will be difficult for some
- D. I realize this, but please listen carefully
- E. Caveat - many reasons for infant baptism
- F. Can not cover all today
- G. Q&A - chance to discuss more - bring questions!

II. Common Reasons for Paedobaptism

- A. Tradition - it is what we have always done - bad
- B. Baptism removes original sin - dying infants
- C. Baptism regenerates/justifies
- D. Covenantal Argument for Paedobaptism
 - 1. Strongest argument for paedobaptism
 - 2. Based on unity of covenants, today's texts
 - a. Unity of covenants - same Gospel, law, etc.
 - b. Rom 4:11; Col 2:11-12 - circumcision/baptism
 - c. Children circumcised (Gen 17:9-14)

- d. Acts 2:38-39 - after 2,000 years of paedocircumcision
- e. Acts 16:33 - household baptized
- f. 1 Cor 7:14 - children of believers holy

3. This is a very strong argument

III. Why Baptism is For Believers Only

- A. Tradition is not sufficient - must have Scripture
- B. Only Christ's blood removes sin (1 John 1:7)
- C. Baptism does not regenerate/justify
 - 1. Saw in last teaching - wrong on Jn 3:5-6
 - 2. Spirit regenerates - Cornelius' house
 - 3. Justification always by faith ALONE (Gal 3:6-9)
- D. Key discontinuities in the covenant & sign
 - 1. All admit - baptism not circumcision; women baptized; not 8th day
 - 2. New covenant - only believers (Heb 8:10-11)
 - a. Old included racial aspect; unbelievers
 - b. New does not - only believers
- E. Covenant promises to those who believe
 - 1. Acts 2:38-39 - promise to all who repent
 - 2. Acts 18:8 - believed; believed & baptized
 - 3. Acts 16:30-34 - whole house heard, believed

- F. Paedobaptist arguments prove too much!
1. 1 Cor 7:14 - same root word for child and spouse
 2. If child 'holy' = baptism - also unbelieving spouse
 3. Household included spouses, kids, slaves
 - a. Gen 17:12-13; household codes in NT
 - b. If kids baptized, unbelieving spouses, slaves

- G. Sacraments presuppose active faith - infants have none
1. Sacrament definition - infants can't do
 2. Luther's struggle on this issue (quotes)
 3. Reformers had 2 doctrines of baptism - believers & infants
 4. Water baptism benefits only for believers
 5. Infants can't repent, believe, profess, bury old man
 6. Simply inappropriate and ineffective for infants

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the biblical teaching on baptism precludes infant baptism?
1. I know this can be difficult and emotional
 2. But we must be guided by Scripture
 3. Not by tradition, emotion, memories, etc
 4. Look at Scripture - I think it teaches believer's baptism
- B. Have you been water baptized - as believer?
1. If never baptized at all - why not????

2. Have you been baptized as a believer?
3. This is the biblical teaching - not infant baptism
4. Study the issue, meet with me, be baptized!

C. A biblical hope for our children

1. God does have great promises, encouragement for parents
2. We need to cling to these, train kids
3. We must point them to Christ
4. Lead them to Christ - then baptism
5. This can be done at young age
6. Hand faith to next generation - I Believe

Who Should Be Baptized?

Acts 2:38-39; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 7:14
 Hebrews 8:6-13
 April 25, 2010
 Response song on faith
 Psalm 115:14-15

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8

For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 1Co 7:14

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. Romans 4:11

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12

Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, **you and your descendants after you** for the generations to come. 10 This is **my covenant with you and your descendants after you**, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo **circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you**. 12 For the generations to come **every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised**, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring. 13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. 14 **Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.**" Genesis 17:9-14

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately **he and all his family were baptized**. Acts 16:33

Consider Abraham: "He **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 7 Understand, then, that those who **believe** are children of Abraham. 8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by **faith**, and announced the **gospel** in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." 9 So those who have **faith** are blessed along with Abraham, the man of **faith**. Galatians 3:6-9

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. Hebrews 8:10-11

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**" 31 They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.**" 32 **Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.** 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; **then immediately he and all his family were baptized.** 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy **because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.** Acts 16:30-34

For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, **including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring.** 13 **Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised.** My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Genesis 17:12-13

A sacrament is a special symbol given by God that, when received in faith, serves as a sign and seal of His promises to us, functions as a means of grace to strengthen us, and through which we testify of our faith in Him and His promises.

"Unless faith is present, or comes to life in baptism, the ceremony is of no avail" (Luther, quoted in *Believers Baptism*, 193). - against ex opere operato

"In baptism the infants themselves believe and have their own faith" (Luther, quoted in *Believers Baptism*, 193).

"Even if they could establish that children are without faith it would make no difference to me." (Luther, quoted in *Believers Baptism*, 195) - against Anabaptists

Water baptism is the sign and seal of our union with Christ, a means of grace to provide strength in our struggle against sin, and the medium through which we testify of our faith in Christ and membership in the church.