

Baptism Basics:

Do I Need to Be “Rebaptized”?

“He who believes and is baptized
shall be saved...”

– Mark 16:16

Review: What is baptism?

Who should be baptized?

- **Baptism:** immersion in water
- **Reason:** for the forgiveness of sins
- **Candidates:** must fulfill certain requirements learned from the gospel:
 - Must believe in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead
 - Must have a conscience convicted of sins
 - Must repent in the heart and mind, turning to God
 - Must confess with the mouth that Jesus is Lord
(cf. Rom 10:9-10; Heb 3:1, etc.; II Cor 9:13; I Tim 6:12-13...)

Ephesians 4:4 – the “one baptism”

- How many Gods are there? How many Holy Spirits? How many Lords?
 - If we believe the Bible at all, the answer is “**one**”!
- Every member of the church that Jesus built shares a number of things in common:
 - One calling, through the gospel (II Thes 2:13)
 - One faith, through the word of God (Rom 10:17)
 - **One baptism → *Search the Scriptures*: how many baptisms do you find that ALL the saved share in common?**

Two fundamental truths:

1. The one baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is essential for the salvation of every person!
2. There are multitudes of religious groups that teach false things about baptism, things never found in the Bible!

Necessary question:

“Do I need to be baptized again?”

A Case of “*Rebaptism*” (?)

- Acts 19:1-5 – Disciples in Ephesus, baptized according to the doctrine of John the Baptist
 - i.e. “baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” (Mark 1:4)
 - This was for Jews, as an addendum to the Old Law (see Mark 1:5, Luke 7:28-30, etc.)
 - John taught nothing of the relationship between baptism and the church, the Holy Spirit, or the resurrection of Christ!
- **Were these disciples really “*rebaptized*”?**

A Case of “*Rebaptism*” (?)

Paul commanded them to “**be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ**” (vs. 4,5)

- Two conclusions logically follow:
 1. If a person is not taught the truth concerning baptism, he/she cannot be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ!
 2. Upon learning the truth, a person previously baptized according to false teaching **must be “baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” for the first time!**

Four Cases Studies:

1. The person baptized as an infant:

- Original sin is a totally false doctrine
 - Ezekiel 18:20 – No one inherits sin from parents
 - Matt 18:1-5, Mark 10:13-16 – We have to become like little children to be saved!
 - Rom 3:23,5:12 – We become sinners when we choose to sin!
- An infant cannot hear the gospel, believe, be convicted of sin, confess or repent **thus infants cannot be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ!**

Four Cases Studies:

2. The person baptized for some reason other than the forgiveness of sins:

- Many people are baptized today according to the false teaching that they are already saved by faith
- Others are taught to be baptized into a denominational church
- Remember Acts 19: baptism is not truly baptism if it's in accordance with false doctrine!
- Acts 2:38 leaves no question about the **reason** for baptism in the name of Christ!

Four Cases Studies:

3. The person baptized “for the remission of sins” at a very young age:

- *Troubling pattern:* in the churches of Christ, children are being baptized at younger and younger ages...
- Can a child truly comprehend and believe in Christ’s death and resurrection?
- Is a child lost? If not, can they really repent?
- Is a child truly responsible to commit to Christ for life?

Four Cases Studies:

4. The person baptized in the name of Jesus Christ who later commits sin:

- Here is a group of people that is multitudinous: in fact, all the saved!
- An example – Simon in Acts 8:14-24 with vs. 13
- Read I John 1:8-10
- **Children of God, saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, are the only people with the privilege to confess sin and pray to God for forgiveness !**