

Should infants be baptized?

Those answering yes use 1Co 16:15-16 *Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), (16) that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.*

Arguing that Stephanas' household must have included infants. -- but v. 16 says that we are to be in subjection to "such men" and no one subjects themselves to a babe.

Alternately, those answering yes will cite the “household of Lydia.”

Act 16:15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

But notice that Lydia was from Thyatira and had made an ocean voyage to Philippi in Macedonia, where she was a prosperous merchant – selling purple (a rich man's clothing color (Lk 16.19). No mention is made of a husband nor of children as the word used for household included servants and workers.

If there were no infants baptized in the New Testament, we need to ask what were the qualifications of those who were baptized.

Act 8:36-38 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (37) [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] (38) And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Although v. 37 is not in all the ancient manuscripts, we find a confirmation in Acts 2 in those who cried out – that is they understood that they had crucified the Lord of heaven and earth – certainly nothing that could be done by an infant – and would only have been done by believers.

Act 2:36-38 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." (37) Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (38) Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Further, we find that these believers were told to repent – something no infant could do – again confirming that only believers have a right to be baptized.

Joh 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Some have questioned whether this baptism was the baptism of the Holy Spirit or of water.

We should note that the very first Gentiles to obey were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, being able to speak in tongues just as the disciples did on the day of Pentecost.

Act 2:6-8 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. (7) They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? (8) "And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born?

Act 10:46-48 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, (47) "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" (48) And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

This water baptism was for the remission of sins.

Again, something no child needs as they have none.

Eze 18:20 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

1Pe 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

From what does water baptism save
you? -- Your sins –

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Just how much water is involved in Bible baptism?

A lot -- Act 8:36-38 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized ... (38) And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

It was not a jug that the eunuch held up but rather a pool of water to which they had come.

Joh 3:23 John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and *people* were coming and were being baptized--

Rom 6:3-4 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

People who are buried are put in a grave and covered – with a stone as Jesus was or with earth today.

The question of whose name is to be used for the baptism is based on the difference in Acts 2.38 and Mt 28.19

Acts 2.38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins

Mt 28.19 baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Did Peter disobey Jesus' command?

Or is the name the same?

Act 4:7-12 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this... (10) let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health. ...(12) "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

The power and authority of the Father and the Holy Ghost reside in Jesus today.

The name (authority, power) is the
same!

A question from our radio program –
why do people refuse to be
baptized?

There are many reasons given but
they can be reduced to one – they
either don't know or don't believe
the word of God.

Mat 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

If the eleven were told to go make disciples – baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost – how could anyone deny that we should be baptized since we are told in the very next verse to “teach them to observe all that I commanded you.”

We are to observe the command to go and baptize.

The question is have you done what Jesus commanded? Have you been baptized by His authority – that of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, based upon your belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, who was crucified for your sins, that you might have remission of your sins?

Why not? Is it because you don't believe the Bible – because you surely know what it says, having heard this lesson.