

“Tough Questions: Baptism”

- I. What is Baptism?**
- II. Does Baptism save us? (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21)**
- III. Who should be baptized (professing believers or infants)?**
 - A. Infants? (R.C. Sproul)**
 - **Continuity with Old Covenant circumcision**
 - **Only if there is a profession of faith by at least one parent (1 Cor. 7:14)**
 - **Baptism does not convey redemption, it is the sign of redemption**
 - **“Baptism” does not always mean “immerse” (Lev. 14)**
 - B. Believers (MacArthur)**
 - 1. Infant baptism is not in Scripture**
 - 2. Infant baptism is not New Testament baptism**
 - 3. Infant baptism is not a replacement sign for the Abrahamic sign of circumcision**
 - 4. Infant baptism is not consistent with the nature of the Church**
 - 5. Infant baptism is not consistent with Reformation soteriology**
- IV. What does baptism signify? (Romans 6; 1 Cor. 12)**
 - A. A new life (2 Cor. 5:17)**
 - B. A new identity (2 Tim. 2:26; 2 Cor. 4; Eph. 2)**
 - C. A new ethic (Rom. 6:12-14)**
 - D. A new Master (Rom. 6:23)**
 - E. A new family (1 Cor. 12)**
 - F. A new accountability**
 - G. A new life mission**
- V. Why do so many “professing believers” choose not to be baptized?**

Discussion & Application:

- 1.** What is baptism? What does the word mean? Why should we do it? What positive things happen when we baptize people in front of the church, family, and friends?
- 2.** How would you answer a person who says you must be baptized in order to go to heaven?
- 3.** Should infants be baptized? If not, why not? If a person was baptized as an infant should they be baptized again as a professing believer?
- 4.** Read Mt. 3:1-10. Why was John so harsh with the Pharisees? Why wouldn't he baptize them?
- 5.** Read 1 Cor. 1:10-17. Why was Paul glad he had not baptized more individuals? Why do you think this is the first issue he addresses with the troubled church in Corinth?
- 6.** Read 1 Cor. 12:12-27. What is Paul's main point? How does that relate to baptism? Should baptism be required for church membership? Why or why not?
- 7.** Have you been baptized as a believer?