

BAPTISM

*The Significance and Symbolism of Water
Baptism*

An Excursus on Acts 2:38

Baptism

Meaning

- ❑ Sign of our *purification* from sin and our *identification* with Christ

Importance

- ❑ Always accompanies saving faith as its outward sign

Baptism

Proper Subjects

- *Believers only or believers and their infant children?*
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**“The Case Against Infant
Baptism”**

Covenant Baptism

(Col. 2:11-12)

Circumcision and Baptism

- ❑ Baptism replaces circumcision as the outward sign of God's covenant**
- ❑ Circumcision and baptism signify the same spiritual promises of God's one covenant**
- ❑ Children of believers are part of God's covenant and must receive the sign of the covenant promises**

Infant Baptism?

General Objections

1. In every NT command or instance of baptism, repentance and faith precede baptism
2. There are no explicit commands or instances of infant baptism in the NT
 - “Household baptisms” are not conclusive either way (**Acts 16:31-34**)

Infant Baptism?

General Objections

3. Baptism is defined as an act done “through faith” (Col. 2:12)
4. Baptism is the outward confession of saving faith (1 Peter 3:21)

The above arguments are not decisive

Infant Baptism?

Specific Objections

- 1. Baptism and circumcision are not the same in signification**
 - Circumcision was an outward denotation of Jewishness (physical seed of Abraham)**
 - Baptism is the sign of inward circumcision; the spiritual seed of Abraham**
 - Nowhere is baptism seen as the exact replacement of circumcision**

Infant Baptism?

Specific Objections

2. The New Covenant is different in nature than the Abrahamic Covenant
 - God is constituting His people only through spiritual birth, not physical descent
 - Seen in the ministry of John the Baptist – he initiated the new sign of the new covenant

Infant Baptism?

Specific Objections

3. Faith is essential for the new sign but not the sign of circumcision
 - A person relates to the New Covenant only by faith, not physical descent
 - Infant baptism emphasizes physical descent – foreign to the New Covenant

Infant Baptism?

Application

- ❑ What about those who were baptized as infants?
- ❑ When should children of believers be baptized?