

*Understanding Jesus' Command to Baptize:
Repent and be Baptized: The Practice of Baptism by the Apostles*
Acts 2:38–41
February 1, 2015
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction:

A. Children's Sermon: Aim at Adulthood...

1 Corinthians 13:11–12

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

B. *...by good and necessary consequence* may be deduced from scripture...

1. How often we eat the Lord's Supper
2. Women & Children at the Lord's Supper

C. Toward Understanding Our Brothers

1. Where do you start your study of baptism?
 - a. Credobaptist: The New Testament
 - 1) Explicit instruction
 - 2) Necessarily deduced from NT
 - b. Paedobaptist: The Abrahamic Covenant
 - 1) The OT given to prepare us for NC
 - 2) Circumcision points to the same spiritual reality
2. How do you understand the New Covenant People of God?
 - a. Is the Church mixed? (Heb. 10:26–31)
 - b. Is the Church pure? (Jer. 31:31–34)

Key Idea:

The assumptions you start with will control the way you understand the practice of baptism in the book of Acts.

II. How was “Baptism” Practiced by Apostles?

Acts 1:8

...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in *Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria*, and to *the end of the earth.*”

A. Jerusalem and in all Judea

Acts 2:37–39, 41

³⁷ Now when they heard *this* they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “*Brothers, what shall we do?*” ³⁸ And **Peter said to them**, “*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 For **the promise** is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”* ...⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

B. Samaria (and Simon)

John 4:22–23

²² You [Samaritans] worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, *for salvation is from the Jews.* ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

Acts 8:12, 14b–23

...when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, *they were baptized, both men and women.* ...

¹⁴ ...they sent to them **Peter and John**, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ *for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and *they received the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁸ Now when **Simon** saw...

²⁰ But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you...

C. The Ends of the Earth

1. The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–39)
2. The Apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-19)

Acts 22:14–16

¹⁴ And [Ananias] said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? ***Rise and be baptized*** and *wash away your sins, calling on his name.*’

3. Cornelius with all his household

Acts 10:1–2

¹ At Caesarea there was a man named ***Cornelius***, *a centurion* of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man *who feared God with all his household*, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

Acts 10:44–48a

⁴⁴ While **Peter** was still saying these things, ***the Holy Spirit fell*** on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because *the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.* ⁴⁶ For ***they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.*** Then **Peter** declared, ⁴⁷ “*Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?*” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. ...

4. Households (Acts 16:14–15, 30-33; 18:8)

Acts 16:14b–15

...The Lord opened [Lydia’s] heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after ***she was baptized***, and ***her household as well...***

Acts 16:32–33

³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to [the Philippian Jailer] and to all who were in his house. ³³

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

Acts 18:8

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

5. Ephesus

Acts 19:2–7 (Cf. Acts 18:25 – Apollos)

² And [Paul] said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you **baptized?**” They said, “Into **John’s baptism.**” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

III. Considering the NT Practice on its Own...

- A. All explicit examples are of Credobaptism
- B. It is not *necessary* to deduce Paedobaptism from these examples.
- C. At Least we Should be Aiming at a Pure Church...
- D. None the Less, I Hope we are Better Equipped to Understand the Biblical Rational of our Paedobaptist Brothers
- E. Deliberate Obedience...