

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Is Infant Baptism Found In The Bible?

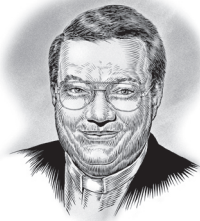
Know This...

When does a person become a Christian? When he accepts Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior; when he accepts the Bible as the Word of God; or, when he is baptized? Only baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit officially makes one a Christian, a member of the Body of Christ, and a child of God. So the sooner one is baptized, the sooner he receives the grace necessary to resist sin and to grow in holiness. Jesus says the kingdom of God belongs to the children and we are not to hinder them from entering it.



John: The Bible never says to baptize only those who can profess faith in God and have accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

James: In the Old Covenant, males were circumcised at eight days. The Apostle Paul says that baptism in the New Covenant has replaced circumcision.



John: Baptism is more than just the washing away of sin. It is our entry into the Body of Christ—into His Church.

James: In baptism we enter the same covenant relationship with the Father that the Father shares with His Son—Jesus.

John: The Bible makes no specific mention of infants being baptized; but several passages record whole households being baptized.

James: No one can truly claim the title “Christian” unless he is born of water and the Spirit through the sacrament of Baptism. No child should be kept from this precious gift of life in Christ.

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“Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.’” Lk 18:15-16

“‘Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.’ And [Jesus] took [the children] in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.” Mk 10:15-16



“Born with a fallen nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism... The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.” CCC 1250 “[Baptism] is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit; children are baptized in the faith of the Church.” CCC 1282 “Baptize first the children; and if they can speak for themselves, let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them.” St. Hippolytus of Rome, 215 A.D. “The Church received from the Apostles the tradition of giving Baptism even to infants.” Origen, 244 A.D. “Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. No one is excepted, not the infant, not the one prevented by some necessity.” St. Ambrose, 387 A.D. “The custom of Mother Church in baptizing infants is certainly not to be scorned, nor is it to be regarded in any way as superfluous, nor is it to be believed that its tradition is anything except apostolic.” St. Augustine, 408 A.D.



“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.” Col 2:11-12 “A woman named Lydia... a worshiper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying. After she and her household had been baptized, she offered us an invitation... and she prevailed on us.” Acts 16:14-15 “He [the jailer] took them [Paul and Silas] in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once.” Acts 16:33

Lord Jesus, You call us to receive the kingdom of God like children: with total trust in Your Word and Your presence in our lives. Through water and the Holy Spirit I was reborn to everlasting life and may one day come to share in Your heavenly kingdom. I pray that all God's children, young and old, will come to acknowledge that only through baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit can we truly be called Christian. I ask this in Your most Holy Name. Amen.

