



Infant Baptism, Baby Dedication, and Salvation

The history, purpose, and practice.

History of Infant Baptism:

1. The practice began in the 3rd century, approximately 3 generations after the apostles all died, and became _____ under Emperor Constantine.
2. As Christianity became the **STATE** religion, the idea that people were **converted** to Christianity was supplanted by the idea that you were _____ into Christianity, and some even went so far as to claim Christianity was **part of your Roman Citizenship**.
3. In its earliest state (before Constantine), infant Baptism was for the _____, not the child. It was an expression of a _____ commitment to raise their child in a Christian home, and point them towards Jesus and Christian faith. (This tradition is still sincerely practiced in the Presbyterian Church)
4. Infant Baptism, in the time of Augustine (5th century) became a _____ for salvation within the Catholic church, and a _____ of a child's salvation if they should die in childhood. (Both of these beliefs are still taught and practiced by the Catholic church today.)
5. Many Protestant Churches today who practice infant baptism (Methodists, Lutherans, and Anglicans) fall somewhere between the Presbyterians and Catholics, **varying in belief and practice from church to church** within these groups.

The Reformation and development of Protestant Churches brought about an important change.

1. Recognizing that the Bible NOT EVEN _____ mentions infant baptism.
2. Recognizing that EVERY SINGLE TIME baptism is mentioned in scripture, it is as a _____ to salvation. (exception: John the Baptist and Jesus)
3. Recognizing that Salvation is a _____ experience received by grace and through faith – not by or through any works.
4. Many _____ infant baptism as a false teaching giving false hope, some **continued unsure** of how to find balance, and others simple **carried on as usual**.

The solution: Baby Dedication

1. The idea of parents committing to raise their children in a Christian home, and further committing to present to them an opportunity to choose Christ was still seen as a _____.
2. Therefore, Baby Dedication retained the original _____, while abandoning the original _____.
3. Recognizing that the Bible does **NOT EVEN ONCE** mention baby dedication either, many churches endorse Baby Dedication as a **positive spiritual practice** that does _____ contradiction any scriptural mandate, **but do not require it**.

We, as Baptists:

1. _____ the desire of a family to publicly declare their desire to raise a child in a Christian family, encouraging the child to have a relationship with God from the earliest ages.
2. But, do not want to encourage any _____ as to the outcome of such a dedication, or _____ any extra Biblical power to the ceremony.
3. Therefore, we as Baptist, enthusiastically _____ Baby dedication for any family that requests it, and **help** them in the raising of the child **as much as possible**.

Where does true salvation come from?

1. An _____ of my need to have my sins forgiven, and my _____ of God's gift of forgiveness, made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Romans 3:23 **All** have sinned, and fall short of **God's** requirements
 - b. Romans 6:23 Sin **must** be paid for. God has **offered** to pay it for you
 - c. Romans 5:8 Jesus died for our sin **in advance**, pre-paying the price
 - d. Romans 10:13 If we **call out to God** for forgiveness, He will grant it.
 - e. Romans 10:9-10 We need to make our confession of belief **to God**, **request** his forgiveness, and **receive** His gift of salvation.
 - f. Mark 1:15 In response, we **repent** (change) of our sinful ways