



Baptizing Our Parents and Children

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- We love our extended families; it is part of our design in the image of God
- God's love for all of His children is perfect, and He does everything within His plan for their salvation
 - 1John 4:9 - "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."

Baptizing Our Parents and Children

- Our love for our families is occasionally manifested in ways that work against their salvation
- Some do nothing, hoping for the best, afraid of risking a loss of relationship by pressing the matter
 - 1Kings 1:6 - “His father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, Why have you done so?”
- Some do too much, pressing others to the point that they drive away the prospect
 - Col. 3:21 - “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

Baptizing Our Parents and Children

- We want our parents and children to be saved, but how do we reach them?

How Do I Baptize My Parents?

- Be patient
 - You can't make your parents change their minds. They will have to do that for themselves at their own pace.
 - 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

How Do I Baptize My Parents?

- Be a good example
 - How you represent the Christian life to them will likely be the best teaching tool you have
 - Matt. 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
 - 1Peter 2:12 - “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
 - The power of your influence on your relatives is only as strong as the example you set for them

How Do I Baptize My Parents?

- Be studious
 - You must be prepared with an answer; opportunities are often rare and fleeting
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - 1Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”

How Do I Baptize My Parents?

- Be prayerful
 - That's how we fill the time between opportunities; that's how we manifest our faith in the power of the gospel
 - James 5:16 - "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."
 - 1John 3:22 - "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

How Do I Baptize My Parents?

- Involve other Christians
 - Ask other Christians to pray for them and become involved in influencing them for Christ.
 - Heb. 10:24 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”
 - 1Thes. 5:11 - “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- On the one hand, we know that this is a personal decision that impacts one's entire life
- We are not certain they are ready (translated: we don't know their level of commitment)
- We are afraid of misusing our influence as parents

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- At the same time, we want our children to be with us in heaven
- Without reservation, every Christian parent of adult children is more concerned for their spiritual wellbeing than any other matter in their lives.
- We are aware of the passing of time and the loss of influence over our children as they go from childhood to adulthood.

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- When are they ready?
 - Human development is individual; the Bible does not reveal an age limit
 - If a child is able to state that he is not ready for the commitment or that he doesn't think he is accountable, he probably is ready
 - The Bible tells us when one is ready to obey the gospel

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Does the child believe?
 - Jesus is God's Son; God has spoken; in accountability for sins; in the Judgment?
 - Mark 16:16 - "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
 - Acts 8:36-37 - "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? 37 Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
 - Rom. 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Is the child prepared to repent?
 - Repentance (reversal of moral purpose; turning from sin to Christ) is a necessary prerequisite to baptism
 - Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Acts 3:19 - “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Will the child confess the name of Christ?
 - Rom. 10:9-10 - “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Does the child understand the purpose of baptism?
 - It is obedience in baptism that removes sin from our record
 - Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”
 - Acts 22:16 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - 1Peter 3:21 - “There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Does the child understand the purpose of baptism?
 - It puts us into the family of God
 - Gal. 3:26-27 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - Acts 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Infants and young children are sinless and therefore safe from condemnation; they have no sins from which they need to be saved.
- When a child matures to the point of understanding the moral consequences of right and wrong and still does wrong, he has committed sin and needs salvation through Christ.
- Teach them your expectation that they become Christians someday. If you are unwilling to do that, you are unqualified to parent your children.

Who Should Baptize My Parents And Children?

- It doesn't matter who baptizes, as long as it is done according to God's word.
- There are no qualifications for baptizers in the Bible.
- All the requirements are on the one being baptized.

Who Should Baptize My Parents And Children?

- 1Cor. 1:13-17 - “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. 16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”