

What Is Wrong With Denominational Baptism?

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Introduction: Someone has correctly observed that Baptism is one of the more controversial subjects in the Bible. It is not controversial however because of a lack of clarity.

- A. The reason there is controversy is because of a wide variety of teaching and practice. Again this is not because of the word of God. **(1 Cor 1:10)**
 - 1. The scriptures indicate that we can know and stand upon the one baptism as we can upon the one true God! **(Eph 4:4-6)**
 - 2. One reason men differ on this is because of a philosophy that teaches we do not need to stand upon the scriptures. These people generally do not believe in the inspiration of the scriptures. **(2 Tim 3:16-17)**
 - 3. This lesson is directed at those who believe the Bible is the word of God.
- B. Because of our common belief in the inspiration of the scriptures it is possible for us to know and stand upon God's will. **(John 17:20-21)**
 - 1. Throughout history men have needed to fight human traditions which powerfully hold men. Many have a long history of practice. **(Col 2:8; 1 Pet 1:18)**
 - 2. On a personal basis you and I must put away our pride and admit when we are wrong. This will involve a willingness to even begin a study that will challenge long held beliefs. **(Jas 1:23-25)**
 - 3. Please feel free to express you disagreements and open your Bible with me for further study. We can stand upon the truth together! **(John 8:32)**
 - 4. We will consider three areas of problems with denomination baptism.
- C. Some personal questions before we examine the scriptures.
 - 1. When were you saved by the blood of Christ?
 - 2. How old were you?
 - 3. How long after your salvation were you baptized?
 - 4. For what purpose were you baptized?
 - 5. How long after your request to be baptized were you actually baptized?
 - 6. What did you confess before you were baptized?
 - 7. How were you baptized? That is was it sprinkling, pouring or immersion in water?

I. Denominational Baptism often has the wrong subject.

- A. Before one can be baptized one must:
 - 1. Have heard the word of the Lord. **(Acts 16:31-33)**
 - 2. Have believed in Jesus as the Son of God. **(Mark 16:15-16)**
 - 3. Have repented of their sins. **(Acts 2:38)**
 - 4. Have confessed with the mouth that Jesus is Lord. **(Rom 10:9-10)**
 - 5. If even one of these steps are left out the one being baptized has gotten wet. He has yet to receive scriptural baptism.
- B. Inspired men were selective concerning who they baptized. **(Acts 8:36-38)**

1. This would mean that infants could not be baptized.
2. This also would mean that young children could not be baptized.
3. Those who can be baptized must have reached an “age of accountability”.

(Rom 7:9)

- C. Were you a proper subject when you were baptized?
1. I have often found those who later admitted that they did not know what they were doing.
 2. What did you confess? Often denominational churches ignore this area.
 3. Do you have any doubts? Make it sure.

II. Denominational Baptism often has the wrong action.

- A. Baptism is a burial in water. **(Col 2:12; Rom 6:4)**
1. This involved men going into and coming up out of the water.
(Acts 8:38-39)
 2. John the Baptist went where there was “much water”. **(John 3:23)**
- B. Baptism by definition means to immerse.
1. Baptismo means to immerse or overwhelm.
 2. Look up the word yourself! Also check out other translations.
 3. Have you received this baptism?

III. Denominational Baptism almost always has the wrong purpose

- A. Baptism is for the remission of sins. **(Acts 2:38)**
1. What if we changed the purpose of the Lord’s supper and made it into a memorial for a man? **(1 Cor 11:24-25)**
 2. Paul understood the purpose of Baptism. **(Acts 22:16; Rom 6:4; 1 Cor 12:13)**
 2. Can baptism be acceptable if one believes they are saved first and then baptized?
- B. There are Bible examples of those who were immersed for the wrong reason and then later scripturally baptized. **(Acts 19:1-6)**
1. Why would Paul expect these men to have a knowledge of the Holy Spirit? **(Acts 2:38)**
 2. Did sincerity make their Baptism acceptable?
- C. Things that indicate a baptism for another reason.
1. When you are asked to confess that: “God for Christ’s sake has forgiven me of my sins.”
 2. When those who baptize you wait for several days.
 3. When you cannot remember the reason.
 4. When you are baptized to become a member of a denominational body.

Conclusion: Will you make your salvation sure?

- A. Salvation is found in Christ and His death. Are you forgiven? How do you know? **(Col 2:11-13)**
- B. You will only receive the one baptism once in a lifetime. Never have a doubt about where you stand before God.