

Five Reasons Infants



Should Be Baptized



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Baptism takes place in the community of the baptized, who reaffirm their Baptism as their foundation by gathering "in the name of Jesus" or "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

So, Baptism determines the form of the church's liturgy and provides a context for its own administration. It is distinguished from the other forms of the Word of God or the Gospel by the use of water, but it does not on that account become separable or isolated from them.

All forms of the Word—the reading of the Scriptures, the liturgy, the hymns, the prayers, the rite of Baptism and its actual administration—have inherent power to convert. The child in, before, or during the rite of Baptism comes under all forms of the Word of God, by which faith is awakened. This Word culminates in the application of the water administered in the name of the Father-Son-Holy Spirit.

In Baptism, God "preaches" to the child and he believes. Everything which God is and has is given to the child. This is pure Luther!

(Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics: Baptism.)

Five Reasons Infants Should Be Baptized

1. **Baptism Is the Work of God**
2. **Infants Are Sinners**
3. **Infants can Believe**
4. **Household Baptism in the Bible**
5. **Throughout Scripture God Shows a Special Care for Children**

Introduction: Holy Scripture teaches that both adults and children should be baptized. With respect to adults, Scripture expressly points out that only such should be baptized as believe in, and confess, Christ, **Acts 2:41; 8:36–38**. Children are to be baptized if they are brought to us for baptism either by their parents or by such as have parental authority over them, **Mark 10:13–16**. The Lutheran Church has always condemned the unscriptural papistic practice of baptizing children without the knowledge or against the will of the parents (baptism in secret). We therefore baptize only such children as are offered for baptism by those who have parental authority over them.

Baptism is the work of God:

- **John 3:3-8** - Born of water and the Spirit
- **Acts 2:38** - Forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit
- **Acts 22:16** - Wash away your sins
- **Romans 6:3-5** - Baptized into Christ - His death and resurrection
- **Colossians 1:13-14** - Delivered from domain of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved Son
- **Colossians 2:11-12** - Circumcised with the circumcision of Christ
- **1 Peter 3:21** - Baptism saves you
- **Titus 2:5-7** - He saves us ... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

Infants are sinners:

- **Psalm 51:5** - conceived in sin
- **Romans 5:12, 18-19** - death spread to all men; all are sinners
- **John 3:5-6** - born of the flesh
- **Ephesians 2:1-3** - dead in sin
- **Job 14:4; 15:14** - clean out of unclean

Infants can believe:

- **Psalm 22:9-10** - from my mother's womb You have been my God
- **Psalm 71:5-6** - upon You have I leaned from before my birth
- **Luke 1:39-45** - John the Baptist leaped for joy in the womb
- **Luke 10:21-22** - revealed them to little children
- **Luke 18:15-17** - receive the kingdom of God like a child

Household Baptisms in the Bible:

- **Acts 16:5** - Lydia
- **Acts 16:33-34** - Philippian Jailor
- **1 Corinthians 1:16** - Stephanus
- **Acts 11:14** - Cornelius

Throughout Scripture God shows a special care for children:

- In the OT God includes children in His gracious promises - The Flood and Crossing the Red Sea (1 Cor 10:1-2 and 1 Peter 3:10)
- Circumcision to Abraham - sealed God's promises to the children of Israel
- Circumcision - eight days old - brought children into God's kingdom - by faithful parents
- **Colossians 2:11** - Baptism is the great fulfillment of circumcision - why wouldn't children still be included?
- In the Old covenant things are more EXCLUSIVE and in the New Covenant things are more