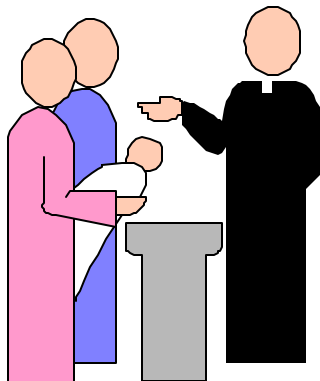




So You Are Thinking About Having Your Infant/Child Baptized?

*Here You Will Find What We Believe,
Why We Believe and Practice It*

By Bass Mitchell



Introduction

Since you are reading this booklet on infant/child baptism, you must have an interest in the topic. Most likely it is because you have questions about or perhaps you are considering it for your children.

This booklet is a resource that might help you answer some of your questions



and address some of your concerns about infant baptism. It will seek to show the meaning of infant baptism and why it is a part of many churches today.

It is strongly suggested that you read and discuss it with your spouse. Also, you should arrange a meeting with your minister to discuss this and ask any further questions you may have. There is a space provided at the end of the booklet for you to jot down questions or anything you would like to ask your minister when you meet.

We will meet with our pastor:

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

Here write down any questions you may wish to ask your minister or anything you might wish to explore.

Here write down any questions you may wish to ask your minister or anything else you may wish to explore when you meet.

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We Believe In Baptizing Children

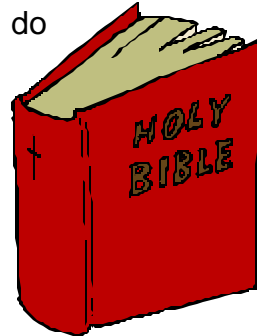
Someone allegedly asked Mark Twain, "Do you believe in infant baptism?" He is said to have responded, "Believe in it? I've SEEN it!

We have seen infant baptism and we believe it. Why? Many denominations - United Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Anglicans, United Church of Christ, and many others practice infant baptism. It has been a practice of the church for many centuries. So it's not something we created ourselves.

John Wesley, for example, who was the founder of the Methodist Church, belonged to the Church of England - the Anglican Church. Wesley, being a good Anglican, practiced infant baptism. So this practice came over into our church from this tradition. But that tradition was based on much older ones back to the early church and biblical teachings, as well as our understanding of key Christian doctrines like grace.

What About the Bible?

Some point out that we are not told in the Bible specifically to baptize children. That is true. But there is also no biblical text that prohibits it. What we do



know is that according to Jewish authorities it was common practice to baptize proselytes (converts to Judaism and then Christianity) and their children when they embraced the religion of Israel or the Church. So we see in the Book of Acts whole families like that of the Philippian jailer, Lydia, and Cornelius were baptized and surely children must have been included in that. We do know that from early church fathers like Justin Martyr and Irenaeus that children were being included in baptism. So it has been a practice for a long time.



I think one key passage is the one where the disciples think that Jesus is too busy to be bothered by little children whose parents have brought them to be blessed by Jesus. But Jesus rebukes