

1. To be baptized as a Christian was not a suggestion by Jesus but a commandment. (Matt 28:19)
2. The two conditions to receive water baptism are:
 - a. Repentance – *Repent and be baptized all of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)*
 - b. Faith – *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)*
3. A new believer should be baptized immediately or as soon as possible (Acts 8:12)
 - a. Were there any believers that were not baptized before they died? Yes! The thief on the cross (Luke 23:43).
4. New testament water baptism is by full immersion
 - a. Greek word *baptizo* means to submerge
 - b. John 3:23 – John the Baptist baptized where there was plenty of water
5. There are no specific instances in scripture of an infant being baptized, but is it unbiblical to baptize an infant? There are some parents who “baptize” in order to consecrate a child to the Lord... that is they make a public statement that they want to raise that child according to kingdom principles and for the glory of God. This is technically not baptism in the biblical sense because baptism is a sign of personal belief. An infant does not have the capacity to believe or disbelieve and therefore cannot make a personal statement as such. Other parents “baptize” their children for the purpose of salvation, which is definitely not biblical... salvation is the result of faith which implies that the person has the ability to believe.
 - a. These groups / denominations believe in and practice infant baptism for the purpose of consecration and/or salvation:
 - i. the Roman Catholic Church
 - ii. the Eastern Orthodox Church
 - iii. Oriental Orthodoxy
 - iv. Armenian Apostolic Church
 - v. Assyrian Church of the East
 - vi. the Anglican Communion
 - vii. Lutherans
 - viii. Presbyterians
 - ix. Methodists
 - x. some Church of the Nazarene,
 - xi. the Reformed Church in America
 - xii. the United Church of Canada
 - xiii. the United Church of Christ (UCC)
 - xiv. Continental Reformed

Here are some passages of scripture used to advocate this practice:

- "She was baptized, with her household" (Acts 16:15)

- "the same hour of the night . . . he was baptized, with all his family" (Acts 16:33)
 - "I did baptize also the household of Stephanas" (1 Cor. 1:16)
 - "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14)
- b. These groups do not believe in or practice infant baptism:
- i. Baptists, Apostolic Christians
 - ii. Old Time Missionary Baptists
 - iii. Disciples of Christ
 - iv. Most Pentecostals
 - v. Mennonites
 - vi. Amish
 - vii. Community of Christ
 - viii. Plymouth Brethren
 - ix. Seventh-day Adventists
 - x. Most non-denominational churches

Here are some passages of scripture cited by Malcolm Webber to advocate this point of view:

- Whoever **believes** and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (**Mark 16:16**) – **only one who consciously believes**
 - Therefore go and make **disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (**Matt 28:19**) – **only one who consciously believes**
 - Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt 19:13-14)
 - For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. (1 Cor 7:14)
6. We are baptized only once (another reason why some might say that infant baptism is unbiblical) – Heb 10-10:14
7. In whose name do we baptize? – Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:17, 24:47; John 14:13,26; Eph 5:20
- a. We don't see any instances in scripture of someone being baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Did the disciples forget the commandment of Jesus in the great commission?
 - b. Per Malcom Webber, "Father", "Son" and "Holy Spirit" are titles of God not the name of God. If you were to ask someone what their father's name was they would not answer "father". Jesus is the name God used to reveal himself on earth (Acts 4:12, Heb 1:2) and all the fullness of the Godhead dwells within that name (Col 2:9). Therefore, to baptize in the name of Jesus is to fulfill the commandment in the great commission.
8. Water baptism depicts the following:

- a. United with Jesus in his death burial and resurrection – Rom 6:3-4
 - b. Washing away of our sins and the cleansing of our consciences - 1 Peter 3:21
 - c. Public declaration of faith in Christ – Matt 10:32-33
9. Does baptism save? No. Salvation is by faith alone (Titus 3:5). It is a sign of the faith we already have, just as circumcision was an outward sign of Abraham's faith (Romans 4:11)
10. Who has the authority to baptize? Any follower of Christ has the privilege of baptizing another. There are no special qualifications to baptism someone (Acts 9:10-18). If only the "super stars" could baptize then we would not be able to fulfill the great commission (Matt 18:19)