WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

In the Bible, baptism is always "a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4, Acts 2:38).

Furthermore, baptism is to be entered into with faith (Mark 16:15-16).

Infants do not understand enough to believe, nor do they have sins to repent of. First they must grow and learn. Then they will know how to believe and repent.

The Bible teaches six steps of obedience to Jesus, including baptism. Because an infant cannot yet take the other five steps, an infant is in a state of grace and not ready for baptism, or required to be baptized.

The six steps are...
1. Hearing Christ's word (Romans 10:8-17, Matthew 7:24).
2. Believing — having faith (Romans 1:16-17, John 3:16)
4. Confessing Christ (Romans 10:8-10, Matthew 10:32)
5. Being baptized (Romans 6:3-4, Mark 16:15-16)

In this lesson we examine whether infants should be baptized.

We know that baptism is "for the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 2:38). So if an infant has sins, then an infant needs baptism.

People baptize babies because they believe the baby was born sinful. They believe that Adam's "original sin" is passed on to all human beings by procreation.

People who believe that babies are born innocent, do not baptize them. So let us think about innocence first of all.

1. THE STATE OF INNOCENCE

Jesus recognised the state of innocence in little children. "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lke 18:15-17). Little children are not damned but in a state of grace.

Nobody is born a sinner, nor is sin inherited from one's fathers. Nobody is condemned before having grown up and committed personal sin. "The soul who sins shall die" (Eze 18:2-4).