

## Subjects of Bible Baptism

*John Isaac Edwards*

**N**ot everyone is a suitable candidate to be baptized. Let's explore just who the Scriptures teach is a proper subject of Bible baptism.

***Those Guilty of Sin.*** Since Bible baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), it necessarily follows that a subject of Bible baptism is one who has sinned. One becomes guilty of sin when he transgresses God's law (1 John 3:4).

***Those Who Have Been Properly Taught.*** The Lord instructed, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...” (Matthew 28:19). The “them” of this verse who are to be baptized are those who have been taught. Thus, one is first taught and then baptized. Every case of baptism in the book of Acts was preceded by gospel teaching and preaching. Acts 8:12 records, “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

***Those Who Believe.*** Bible baptism is for those who believe. Did you notice when those in Samaria were baptized? “...when they believed...” (Acts 8:12). When the man of Ethiopia asked, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”, Philip answered, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest...” (Acts 8:36-37).

***Those Who Repent.*** Peter commanded, “Repent, and be baptized...” (Acts 2:38). Repentance, which God commands of “all men every where” (Acts 17:30), comes before baptism. Repentance is a turning from one's evil way, as illustrated by the men of Nineveh who “repented at the preaching of Jonah” (Jonah 4:5-10; Matthew 12:41). Christ declared, “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5).

***Those Who Confess Their Faith in Jesus.*** Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32). When Peter acknowledged Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God”, Jesus announced, “...upon this rock I will build my church...” (Matthew 16:16, 18). Paul wrote, “...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10). The man of Ethiopia confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” before he went down into the water with Philip in Acts 8 (verse 37).

Baptism is not for infants or the irresponsible. It is not for those who have not been taught properly, or do not believe in Jesus, or have not repented of their sins, or have not confessed their faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Only those meeting these Scriptural requirements are fit subjects of Bible baptism.

# If There Is Only One in the Godhead...

John Isaac Edwards

**S**ome have been made to believe that there is only one person in the Godhead, Jesus only; that Jesus is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. If this be true...

**Why the Words “Us” and “Our”?** “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...” (Genesis 1:26). The words “us” and “our” demand more than one person.

**How Do You Explain the Baptism of Jesus?** “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17). This shows three separate entities: Jesus (in the water), the Spirit of God (descending like a dove), and the Father (from heaven).

**Have You Read John 14:16-17?** Jesus, speaking to His apostles, said, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth...” Have you thought about how this would read, if Jesus, the Father and the

Holy Spirit are one and the same person? Jesus would have said, “And I will pray to Myself, and I shall give you Myself, that I may abide with you for ever; Even Myself...” Do you see the absurdity of this?

**Have You Considered the Lord’s Prayer?** The prayer of Jesus in John 17 shows Jesus is not the Father and the Father is not Jesus as “Jesus (on earth)...lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father...” (verse 1). If Jesus is the Father, who is “thou” and who is “him” (verse 2)? If the Father is Jesus, who is “I” and who is “thee” (verse 4)? Jesus prayed to the Father, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (verse 21). Notice the word “us” which denotes oneself and another. Also, whatever kind of oneness characterizes the Father and Jesus is to characterize Jesus’ disciples. If this is to be understood to mean the Father and Jesus are one person, was Jesus praying that all His disciples be one person? Of course not! He was praying that they be united. Further, Jesus cannot be the Father and the Father cannot be Jesus as the Father sent Jesus.

See the consequences of this thinking?

**The Terre Haute Speaker** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

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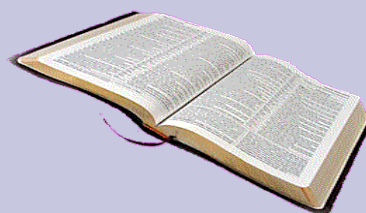
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**Assembling Times:**

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**The Bible  
Is Our  
Only Guide!**