

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About...

### Infant Baptism

The Bible does not say anything about baptizing (christening) babies. Baptizing infants, and the concept of original sin, is a false teaching that came from the traditions of men several centuries after the life and death of Jesus. In the first century, when someone was to be baptized, certain criteria had to be in place. Jesus said, "He who has BELIEVED and has been baptized shall be saved," (Mark 16:16). And Peter said to the Jews on Pentecost, "REPENT, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ unto the forgiveness of your sins..." (Acts 2:38). Clearly, faith and repentance are required prior to baptism. No place in scripture does it indicate that one person can believe for another person. So, a god-parent cannot make a confession of faith for a child. Children would need to reach the age of accountability when they know that they have sinned against God at which point they would need a Savior to be forgiven.

Infants are pure and innocent of all sin, and therefore they do not need to be "saved." As Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matt. 19: 14). According to this scripture the spiritual condition of an infant is safe.

When King David sinned with Bathsheba, and had her husband killed (2 Samuel 11 & 12), God told him through the prophet Nathan that he would pay "fourfold" for those sins. The baby born to Bathsheba became ill and later died. But David said, "But now he [the child] has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him [Paradise], but he will not return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). David understood where the child was.

The baptism of infants began because people thought they were "born in sin and totally depraved." The Bible does not teach that babies are born in sin, inheriting sin from their parents because of Adam's sin. No one can inherit sin from someone else. Note what the prophet Ezekiel said, "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself," (Ezek. 18:20). In other words, each person shall answer to God for his own actions, not for his father's, or for Adam's. Paul wrote that "each one of us will give an account of himself to God...For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that EACH one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done whether good or bad" (Romans 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). Notice again, each of us will be judged by the things done in the body, not by the things done by our parents, or Adam.

So, there is a reason the Bible never mentioned "original sin" or "infant baptism." These are the traditions of men, not the teachings of God (Matt. 15:3). If a person knows he has transgressed against God, that person needs to believe, repent, and be baptized.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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