

and resurrection, acting out our death and rebirth. If I were being born again I'd want my father's name, not titles, so that I have an inheritance and am not born illegitimate.

But how to baptize? Sprinkling babies would be OK, wouldn't it?

No, and on two counts.

The very first part of Christian baptism is repent. How can a baby repent? It can't, it knows nothing of good and evil, so baptism of babies is a waste of time. However dedication of babies is fine. A child can be baptised when it is mature enough to understand right from wrong and is able to repent; probably about twelve to fourteen years old. However that is not a rule as many much younger have successfully followed Christ from an earlier age.

The second issue is about the water. The word Baptism means immersion in water. Romans 6 v4 and Colossians 2 v12 both describe water baptism as burial that identifies us with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sprinkling is out!

The book of Exodus is a parable or type of Christian's life. We have all been born into slavery of this world, that's Egypt. A messenger warns of coming judgment and tells the people to sacrifice a lamb and mark the door posts and lintel of the house with the lamb's blood. When the angel of death sees that sign he passes over. If we accept the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, and are willing to publicly acknowledge our faith (put the blood on display) then we have eternal life. But that is only the beginning our journey to our Promised Land as it was for the Jews. Three days out and their past life, Pharaoh and his armies, are determined to take us back into slavery and it is only God Himself standing between us and our past that keeps us from failure. The only way forward is through the Red Sea, and the water was a wall either side of them. They walked through the water and came up the other side. Their past life tried to follow and drowned. That is Water Baptism! (The type continues with the arrival at Mount Sinai and receiving the law at Pentecost, or 50 days after Passover. They received the law but the church received power at Pentecost.)

In short then, Water Baptism can only be for those old enough to repent, it is immersion in water and must be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. That, and the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost, applies to all who would be Christians for all time. In these last days it means re-baptism is required for many. Of course some will not truly repent. They will go in the water a dry sinner and come out a wet one. But that does not negate the Word of God.

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Water Baptism



Jesus said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believes not shall be damned." (Mark 16 v16)

Baptism has always been part of the Christian Faith. Jesus ministry started with His baptism by John. Once that ministry was over and just before He ascended into heaven Jesus left baptismal instructions with the disciples.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28 v19)

In Acts chapter 2, fifty days after the crucifixion 120 believers were meeting secretly in an upper room. This was the time of the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Suddenly the Holy Spirit entered the room, as noisily as a gale force wind, but it appeared like the fire of God. A tongue of flame anointed each person there and they were filled with God's Spirit. No longer scared they rushed outside where a very large crowd was gathering because of the noise. Peter took advantage of this to preach the first ever Christian sermon and he was so effective that 3,000 souls felt so convicted that they asked the disciples, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" And Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2 v37-38)

Note, Jesus told His disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost yet Peter baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Looking at it logically either Jesus got it wrong, which seems most unlikely, or Peter, newly filled with the Holy Spirit and just starting the Christian church, got it wrong. Again, most unlikely. If it is most unlikely that either Jesus or Peter got it wrong then there must be a scriptural explanation. And there is, of course.

There are several New and Old Testament readings that clear this query up but first let's look again at the end of Matthew's book.

The instruction from Jesus was to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. It says name, not names.

What then is the name Father? What is the name of the son, what is the name of

the Holy Ghost? Father is the title of a relationship, an office. Son is the same. And the Holy Ghost is a descriptive title of the very life and anointing of God. These are titles, none are names. On reading the instruction from Jesus again could it be that there is one name for the Father, Son and Holy Ghost? And is that name a compound of three titles?

Exodus 3 v15, Isaiah 42 v8 God states *“The Lord is my name ...”* Of course we know the name of the Son, that is Jesus, the name above all names. And the Holy Ghost is the anointing or Christ. Is this the correct name?

Title	Father	Son	Holy Ghost
Name	Lord	Jesus	Christ

There may still be a mental barrier here for some people, such as extreme trinitarians who see God as three distinct and separate persons. For such people God the Father is a totally different and separate person from the person of the Holy Spirit, and, of course the Son is another person again, even though each is of the same essence. But are they separate?

(I will be using the Bible as the final authority, and it may disagree with some theological beliefs. However I believe the Bible was given to us as the absolute and while all sorts of weird doctrines can be made by careful selection of some scriptures a true interpretation will link from Genesis to Revelation.)

If we read the last page of a book and it said, “Jane and John lived happily ever after” then we would have to go to the front of the book to find out who Jane and John are. Jesus gave instructions about the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost to be used in water baptism at the end of Matthew so we would have to go to the beginning of Matthew to find out who those three are.

In verse 18 of Chapter 1 of Matthew it says, *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.”*

It does not say God the Father, it says that the Holy Ghost. He is the father of Jesus. Of course we should never take just one scripture as proof.

It seems that Joseph was upset to find his fiancé pregnant but God spoke to him in a dream and confirmed that this baby was the son of the Holy Ghost in verse 20. Not only that but the baby is named, “Jehovah Saves” or Yeshua (English - Joshua, Greek - Jesus). And in verse 23 it adds that his name shall be called *Immanuel* which means, *“God with us.”*

Go back to that prophecy in Isaiah 9 v6 which we read every Christmas. *“For*

unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” This child is the mighty God, the everlasting Father! There are no three separate persons as individuals who make up the Godhead but God does reveal Himself in the offices of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. In fact as Colossians 2v9 tells us in Jesus dwells the Godhead bodily.

Why then didn't Jesus speak plainly in Matthew 28 and say baptize in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

He couldn't because He had already given the keys of the kingdom to Peter in Matthew 16 v19. *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

When Peter preached that first Christian sermon there were suddenly 3,000 people wanting to enter God's kingdom. Peter was the only one who could open the gate for he had the key. Whatever he said and did is the way into God's kingdom. And he said, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

Some may say, but the church changed that to Father Son and Holy Ghost, and anyway it doesn't apply for today. Read the very next verse! *“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”* We are afar off from those times, and if we have been called by God then Acts 2 v38 still applies. Those doors to heaven are applied here on earth. Peter doesn't stand in heaven accepting or rejecting people, Acts 2 v38 is the key and it is still operates on earth and in heaven today.

Well how did the early church baptise? There are only two other references, Acts 8 v16 where Peter and John were to pray for people had who had not yet received the Holy Spirit although they had been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and in Acts 19 where Paul had come to Ephesus and found that there were already believers there but they did not have the Holy Ghost. Paul immediately questioned their baptism and finding it was from John the Baptist he re-baptized them.

It was only in the second century AD that the titles, Father Son and Holy Ghost were used.

Water Baptism is where we publicly acknowledge our link with Christs burial