

Understanding Jesus' Command to Baptize:

Are Children Born to Christian Parents Holy?

What does this Have to Do with Baptism?

1 Corinthians 7:12–16

March 8, 2015

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction:

A. Children's Sermon: (Leviticus 15:25–31)

Leviticus 15:31 (Cf. Matthew 9:20–22 – Woman bleeding 12 years)

³¹ “Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they **die** in their uncleanness *by defiling my tabernacle* that is in their midst.”

B. Why should All of Us Care about these Questions?

1. Idolatry has Consequences (The Briefing 02-24-15)

“They're getting divorced, and they'll do anything NOT to get custody of the kids.” So reads the promotional poster, in French, for a new movie, “Papa ou Maman” (“Daddy or Mommy”) Reports **NICHOLAS EBERSTADT** from the **WSJ**, “***The Global Flight From the Family: It's not only in the West or prosperous nations—the decline in marriage and drop in birth rates is rampant, with potentially dire fallout.***”

2. Family Idolatry is Also Dangerous

Matthew 10:34–38 (Cf. Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child...”)

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

3. Understanding the Relationship between the OT and NT is important for all Disciples

II. **Are Children Born to Christian Parents Holy? What does this Have to Do with Baptism?**

A. The Paedobaptist... (Quite a bit...)

1. “Holy Children”

Indeed, it is most evident that the covenant which the Lord once made with Abraham [cf. **Gen. 17:14**] is no less in force today for Christians than it was of old for the Jewish people, and that this word relates no less to Christians than it then related to the Jews. Unless perhaps we think that Christ by his coming lessened or curtailed the grace of the Father—but this is nothing but execrable blasphemy! Accordingly, the children of the Jews also, because they had been made heirs of his covenant and distinguished from the children of the impious, were called a holy seed [**Ezra 9:2**; Isa. 6:13]. **For this same reason**, the children of Christians are considered holy; and even though born with only one believing parent, by the apostle’s testimony they differ from the unclean seed of idolators [**1 Cor. 7:14**].¹ [bold mine]

Genesis 17:14

¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; ***he has broken my covenant.***”

Ezra 9:2a (“**Holy/Godly Seed**” Isa. 6:13; Mal. 2:14–15)

² For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that ***the holy race*** has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. ...”

1 Corinthians 7:14b

...Otherwise ***your children*** would be unclean, but as it is, ***they are holy.***

2. The Contrast between Ezra & Paul

Ezra 9:10–12 (Not a biological purity; e.g. Rahab & Ruth)

¹⁰ “And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, ¹¹ which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, ‘*The land that you are entering, to take*

¹ **Calvin, J.** (2011). *Institutes of the Christian Religion & 2.* (F. L. Battles, Trans., J. T. McNeill, Ed.) (Vol. 1, pp. 1328–1329). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness.

¹² **Therefore** do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and... leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.’

Ezra 10:3

³ Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to ***put away all these wives and their children***, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law.

1 Corinthians 7:12–16

...if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, ***he should not divorce her.*** ¹³ If any woman...¹⁴ For ***the unbelieving husband is made holy*** because of his wife, and ***the unbelieving wife is made holy*** because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ... ¹⁶ For *how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband?* Or...

B. The Baptist: (These questions are related but distinct)

1. “Holy Children”

1 Corinthians 6:15–17 (Temple – 1 Cor. 3:16)

¹⁵ Do you not know that ***your bodies are members of Christ?*** Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But ***he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.***

2. Children of promise... not Flesh

Romans 9:4–8

⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, *according to the flesh, is the Christ...*

⁶ **But** it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

Galatians 3:16

¹⁶ Now *the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring.* It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but *referring to one,* “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

Galatians 3:27–29

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have *put on Christ.* ... ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are *Abraham’s offspring,* heirs *according to promise.*

2 Corinthians 5:16a

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. ...

Key Idea:

The most important thing Christian parents can do is to trust God for their children.

Do not judge one another according to the flesh, rather, look for a heart of trust and obedience. (Acts 15:8; Romans 10:10)