

Three Essential Baptisms

I. Baptized into the Body of Christ.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Agent</i>	<i>Element</i>
The Holy Spirit	Individual	The Body of Christ

- A. Baptized into the Body of Christ (The Church) is the first and far most important of the baptisms.
- B. The Holy Spirit, the 3rd person of the Trinity.
1. I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3-6; 8:2,13-14; I Corinthians 6:11;
 2. Colossians 2:12 (Romans 8:11; 10:9)
 3. Titus 3:5
- C. This authorizes the individual to be called a child of God (John 1:12).

II. Baptized with the Holy Spirit.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Agent</i>	<i>Element</i>
Jesus Christ	Individual	The Holy Spirit

- A. After experiencing the baptism in the Body of Jesus Christ, then an individual is a candidate for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 5:32).
1. Jesus Christ, the 2nd person of the Trinity
 2. Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:21-33; Acts 1:4-8; 11:16
 3. Galatians 3:13-14
- B. This is the enabling power to live a successful and victorious Christian life. (Phil. 4:13)

III. Baptized in Water.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Agent</i>	<i>Element</i>
The Pastor	Individual	Water

- A. Water baptism is the last of the three. An outward show of an inward work of the Lord.
- B. Water baptism doesn't save a man or woman from their sins (It doesn't cleanse the filth of the flesh – only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away sin, 1 Peter 3:21).
- C. The Clergy or Pastor of the church is the Minister.
1. Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:5,8-9; Luke 7:29-30; John 1:28,31; 3:23; 4:1-2
 2. Acts 8:38; 10:46-48 (1st Salvation | 2nd Holy Spirit | 3rd water baptism).

Summary

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Agent</i>	<i>Element</i>
The Holy Spirit	Individual	The Body of Christ
Jesus Christ	Individual	The Holy Spirit
The Pastor	Individual	Water

The Dogma of Infant Baptism

There is *no support* for infant-baptism in the Scripture. There is no express command for infants to be baptized until they become responsible agents and turn to God and have their sins remitted as in the case of adults. There is *no case* of baptism of infants in the Scriptures. No passage even implies such a practice. Salvation is a personal experience and children must become old enough to accept salvation before they are commanded to be baptized. Some theologians believe, “Children under the age of accountability are saved (Matthew 18:1-10; Matthew 19:14). Exact accountable age is not known.” Until they become responsible, even though their parents are unsaved, will be taken to Heaven if they die before accountability just as much as those of saved parents.

Scriptures demand faith and repentance as necessary before baptism and this no child can do until he is old enough to *understand* sin and what to do to be saved.

Infant baptism became prominent when churches began to teach baptism and other sacraments to save the soul and remit sins. Such practice makes it impossible to obey Christ's command later without admitting infant-baptism was of no benefit. Since there are so many scriptural reasons why infant-baptism should not be practiced and since it has no efficacy it would be best to wait until the child turns to God by faith and repents of its sins before it is baptized in water.