

# ***“What Doth Hinder Me to be Baptized?”***

*Acts 8: 36*

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## **Introduction**

1. The Ethiopian Eunuch is the picture of a man desiring baptism.
  - a. He was asking, “*What does hinder me?*”
  - b. While many today ask, “Why must I be baptized?”
2. There are those in the audience today who need to consider this question.
3. Why you should NOT be hindered from being baptized:
  - a. Baptism is the counsel of God – Luke 7:30; Acts 20:27.
  - b. Baptism is a command of Christ – Mark 16:16.
4. The work of Satan is to HINDER any good work – I Thess. 2:18.
  - a. But, to let anyone or anything hinder us from submitting to God’s will and Christ’s command means certain condemnation.

## **I. UNDERTAINTY REGARDING AGE HINDERS BAPTISM**

- a. The question of whether or not a child is old enough is a frequent one.
  - i. The question disturbs both the child and the parents.
- b. It is a question that is difficult to answer because:
  - i. No definite age is given, nor can be given, because of the differences in children.
- c. The answer to the question lies with the individual child in each case.
  - i. Basically, it depends upon his knowledge of the plan of salvation and his need of salvation.
    - ii. He must know what sin is, and be a sinner – Acts 2:38.

## **II. UNBELIEF HINDERS MEN FROM BEING BAPTIZED**

- a. Philip’s answer in Acts 8:37: “*If thou believest with all thine heart*”.
- b. No person can be baptized scripturally without faith – Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12; Heb. 11:6.
- c. It is a faith that works through love – Gal. 5:6; James 2: 17 – 24.
- d. Baptism is faith acting – James 2:24.

## **III. A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING HINDERS BAPTISM**

- a. A lack of understanding of the baptism Christ commanded – Eph. 5:17; Acts 17:30.
  - i. Many misunderstand that is IMMERSION, not sprinkling nor pouring – Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.
  - ii. The ONE baptism (Eph. 4:5) is NOT Holy Spirit baptism, nor fire baptism – it is WATER baptism – Matt. 3:11; 2 Thess. 1:8 – 9; Acts 8:38; I Pet. 3:21; Matt. 28: 19 – 20.
  - iii. Penitent believers are to be baptized, not babies – Acts 2:38.
  - iv. Some receiving in infancy something called baptism go through life thinking they have been baptized.
- b. A failure to understand the NEED of baptism hinders many from obeying.
  - i. Satan says, “There is no need to be baptized; it is unimportant, non-essential.”
  - ii. The need of being baptized is plainly taught in the Word of God:
    1. For the remission of sins – Acts 2:38; 22:16.
    2. Puts one into a relationship with Christ – Gal. 3: 26 – 27; Rom. 6: 3 – 4; I Cor. 12:13.

3. Baptism saves – I Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16

**IV. PREJUDICE AND SENTIMENT HINDERS BAPTISM**

- a. Prejudice has always been a device of Satan to hinder obedience to God.
  - i. Prejudice: “*Preconceived opinions and unwillingness to see*”—Matt. 13:15.
  - ii. Why are people prejudiced? – Because they think more of their denomination, their creed, or their preacher, than they do the Word of God.
- b. Sentiment is a great factor that prevents people from being baptized:
  - i. Being baptized into Christ and becoming a Christian will cause one to lose old friends many times, and these mean more to some people than salvation.
  - ii. Many times, one’s loved ones are offended – Luke 12:51; Matt. 10:37.
  - iii. Love of family is good, but love for God must come first – Acts 5:29.

**CONCLUSION**

The word of God offers no hope for sinners who are never baptized – Mk. 16:16; 2 Thess. 1: 8- 9.

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