

Does Baptism Wash Away...
Wives?

1 Pt.3:21

- Not only teaches what baptism does, but just as clearly what it does not do (cleanse the body).
- There are other things baptism cannot do.
- Baptism cannot save an unbeliever (Mk.16), or an impenitent, Ac.2:38.

I. Does Baptism Cleanse An Adulterous Relationship?

- Adultery occurs when a person joins himself to one person while bound to another
- Ro.7:2-3
- Baptism does not change a sinful act or relationship into a holy one
 - Homosexual obeys gospel... May he continue in his sin? Does his practice become holy?
- Rv.21:8, But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Before baptism, he is...	B	After baptism, he is...
Thief	A	Thief
Idolater	P	Idolater
Liar	T	Liar
Homosexual	I	Homosexual
Fornicator	S	Fornicator
Because he does these things	M	Because he does these things

What is sin?

- 1 Jn.3:4, Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness
- Does baptism change a sinful state into an acceptable one? E.g.: polygamy?

Adultery is a continuous state

- Mt.19:9, And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery

Adultery is a continuous state

- If adultery were a one time act, when would the sin occur?
 - At completion of marriage ceremony?
 - At first conjugal contact?
 - If first contact is wrong, why not second?
 - If second is not sinful, why not?
 - Does committing one sin make further sinful acts sinless?
 - Would this principle apply to homosexuals? If not, why not?

Mt.19:6

- So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate
 - If a marriage that God rejects becomes approved when one is baptized, then baptism becomes God's means of approving a couple in marriage. Where in NT...?
 - Ro.7:2-3 –
 - She is an adulteress as long as she is married to another man while her first husband lives.

I. Does Baptism Cleanse Adulterous Relationship?

II. Repentance Precedes Baptism

Repentance requires that sinful acts and relationships cease

Repentance: 'To change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins – Mt.3:8 [= Lk.3:8]...i.e., conduct worthy of a heart changed and abhorring sin' – Th., 405

Fruit: 'To exhibit deeds agreeing with a change of heart,' Mt.3:8; Lk.3:8 – Th., 326. – Ac.2:40, 42

- Luke does not record everything Peter said

Ezra 9:10-11 (44)

True repentance required separation

Lk.3:8

If repentance is real, specific actions must follow

1 Co.6:9-11

What does repentance require?

- **Thief** steals cars... then is baptized... may he
1) keep the cars? 2) continue to steal?
- **Homosexuals** marry... one obeys gospel...
may he keep partner? ... continue in sin?
- **Adulterer** is baptized: (1) keep? (2) continue?
 - 2 Co.12:21 ... Rv.2:21 ... 9:21

Mark 6:17-18, Herod and Herodias

Must Herod and Herodias repent?

What does repent require?

How to show fruits of repentance (Mt.3:8)?

- Such were some of you – 1 Co.6:11
- Continue in sin (Ro.6:1-2)?
- May an idolater continue in idolatry?
...thief...? ...adulterer...?
- Does baptism call on us to repent / change lives, and not remain as we were before?

Col.3:3-10

Once walked (lived) in these sins (v.7) implies...

5: put to death... (...fornication)

9: put off old man...

10: put on new man...

Q: How would one 'put to death' . . .

- polygamy?
- homosexuality?
- adultery?

1 Tim.5:6

Ro.6:23

Homer Hailey denied that one can live in adultery:

“To demand that a remarried divorced couple break their marriage covenant on the basis of repentance rests on the assumption that their marriage is ‘an adulterous marriage’ or that ‘they are continuing to live in adultery.’ This has not been proved by scripture...” (p. 72)

Ignores Col.3, 1 Tim.5:6, et al.

He admitted his view “opens the door to the free practice of divorce at will...” on (p.74).

Rev.9:20-21

- God is concerned with their past sins.
- Those who continue in sins have not repented. (To repent: must put these things away.)
- Jn.8:11 ... 'Go and sin no more...'

I. Does Baptism Cleanse Adulterous Relationship?

II. Repentance Precedes Baptism

III. What About a Christian's
'wives'??

Corinth

- 1 Co.5¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore *“put away from yourselves the evil person.”*
 - Why? He “has his father’s wife” (v.1).
- 2 Co.2⁶ This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man,⁷ so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

Corinth

- 2 Co.12²⁰ For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults; ²¹ lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.
- One who continues in sin has not repented.

Nineveh

- Jonah 3¹⁰ they turned from their evil way
- Mt. 12⁴¹, they repented at the preaching of Jonah
 - God saw their works . . . and withdrew His judgment