

Buffalo District (Baptism 101)
Presiding Elder Kevin Coakley
Questions & Answers

BAPTISM 101

- 1. How many Sacraments do Methodists recognize?**
A. Two. Baptism and Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper.
- 2. What is the significance of the Sacraments?**
A. Each is a dramatic portrayal of a gracious provision, which God through Christ has made for man's salvation.
- 3. Among whom did the rite of Baptism originate?**
A. As far as we know, it was first practiced by the Hebrews (Jews), the religious group of which John the Baptist was a member.
- 4. What is the central meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism?**
A. That God through Christ has made the Holy Spirit available unto all men, and that those who trust Christ will receive and be invariably transformed by His power.
- 5. What are some of the other meanings Baptism should have for the Christian?**
A. It should symbolize the Christian's new fellowship with God, and his initiation into the fellowship of the ageless Church Christ; it should also symbolize the gracious act of God whereby all man's sins have been forgiven and the believing, repentant sinner has been regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 6. How many modes of Baptism are practiced in the Zion Methodist Church?**
A. Three: Sprinkling, Pouring and Immersion.
- 7. Who determines the mode of Baptism to be practiced?**
A. The person to be baptized.
- 8. Why is this choice permitted by Methodists?**
A. For two reasons: (a) to satisfy any scruples on the part of the convert, and (b) because we put the emphasis on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, rather than on the water and how it is to be used.
- 9. Why do Methodists practice infant Baptism?**
A. Because it was practiced by the "Jewish Church" and the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that infants as well as adults come under the covenant of grace, and they were so treated by Jesus. (see Luke 18:16).
- 10. What safeguards should the Pastor and members of the church provide for baptized infants and children?**

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A. The parents and sponsors should be urged to nurture them in the Christian religion; they should be formed into special classes and adequate plans made for their Methodist Christian Education.

11. Should baptized infants and children be baptized again when they become older?

A. Not unless they insist upon it, efforts should be made to convince them that one baptism is enough.

12. What is the membership status of baptized infants and children?

A. Having received this initiatory Sacrament, baptized infants and children are members of the church on a preparatory status.

13. What conditions must be met to admit them into full connectional Membership?

A. All members seeking full membership must profess saving faith in Christ and consent to abide by the doctrines and laws of the Zion Methodist Connection.

14. Who can administer the Sacrament of Baptism?

A. Ordained Deacons and Elders.