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The One Who Baptizes



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What we know about baptism ...

- The purpose = for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- The act = immersion (Acts 8:38)
- The person = believers (Acts 18:8)
- The one doing the baptizing? The NT does not give specifics about this

Who baptized in NT?

- In some cases, we are told who did the baptizing – Philip (Acts 8:35ff)
- In most cases, we are not told who did the baptizing (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 9:18; 10:48; 16:33; 18:8; see also Jn. 4:1-2 and 1 Cor. 1:14-17)

Generic vs. Specific

- Generic – “he that believes and is baptized...” (Mk. 16:16) and “go make disciples ... baptizing them” (Mt. 28:19)
- Specific – baptize = immerse in water

Essentials vs. Incidentals

- Essentials – enough water to immerse
- Incidentals – the place or source where the water is found (Jn. 3:23); both in the water or not (Acts 8:38); what is said at the baptism, the one doing the baptizing, etc.

Essential: Who Makes the Rules?

- A man?
- A Christian man?
- A faithful Christian man?
- A Church of Christ preacher man?
- An “ordained” Church of Christ preacher man (borrowed from the denominations)?

Is my baptism valid?

- Did a faithful Christian man baptize me?
- Who baptized the one who baptized me?
Who baptized that person? ... and so on

Conclusion

- Choose a man if possible, this is ideal (which will be in most cases); if not, others can do the baptizing (this will be a rare case)
- What is a sinner to do who reads his/her Bible, wants to be baptized, but does not know anyone associated with a church of Christ? Can anyone baptize this person?

Conclusion

- Why divide brethren over a matter that rarely happens – a hypothetical and theoretical issue (a woman doing the baptizing)?