

Say What? Is there a Baptismal Formula?

The headlines read, “Thousands of Baptisms Invalidated.” Apparently, a Catholic priest in Arizona has been using the wrong words while performing baptism ceremonies. Allegedly, thousands of baptisms have been invalidated because this priest used the word “we” instead of “I” in his ceremony. According to the Catholic church, this priest was obligated to say, “I baptize you...,” but instead, he was saying, “We baptized you...”. According to the Catholic church, those who have been baptized with the incorrect words spoken over them must be “re-baptized” properly for their baptism to have any efficacy.

This news story raises a couple of questions that I have heard many Christians ask?

Are there specific words that must be spoken at the time of one’s baptism? Typically, you will hear a preacher say that he is baptizing a person, “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Others contend that this is unscriptural and one must say he is baptizing “in the name of Jesus.”

The truth of the matter is that there is no formula that must be stated when one is baptized. Actually, nothing has to be said. God’s word instructs us to baptize “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19-20) and to baptize “in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 2:38), but note carefully — this is what we are to do, not what we are to say! There is not a single verse in the Bible that gives instruction concerning what the one administering the baptism must say. The important thing is what the person is doing, not what is being said over him. For example, Paul stated that we are to “do all in the name of the Lord” (Colossians 3:17). Now, does that require we must say, “in the name of the Lord” every time we do anything? Imagine, one picks up a cup of water and must say, “in the name of the Lord;” swallows and must say, “in the name of the Lord;” puts the cup down and must say, “in the name of the Lord” etc. Surely you see the difference in what one must “do” and one must “say.”

The Bible contains no formula that must be stated upon one’s baptism. Then why do we say anything while baptizing a person? Because it is a good teaching opportunity. It’s a perfect time to tell others what this person is doing.

Can the administrator invalidate one’s baptism? For instance, “What if he says something wrong, as in the news story?” or “What if he is secretly a charlatan and not a genuine disciple of Jesus?” Again, the Bible places no importance on the administrator of baptism, but upon the understanding of the one being baptized. Imagine what it would require to have security in one’s own salvation if the character of the baptizer was essential. If this were true, I would need to know the genuine character of the person who baptized me, as well as the person who baptized him, and follow that line all the way back to Pentecost! Consider this line of reasoning...

It is possible for one to know he is saved (1 John 5:13).

It is impossible for the one being baptized to know the genuineness of the one doing the baptizing. We can’t know what is hidden in another man’s heart (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Therefore, the genuineness of the one doing the baptizing is not essential for one to know that he is saved.

The important thing in baptism is what the one being baptized understands. He must have “faith in the operation of God” (Colossians 2:12) and “obey from the heart” (Romans 6:17). As for the administrator, God’s word gives no instructions as to who this is to be and what he must say or know.

Steve Higginbotham

Via PreachingHelp.org (February 16, 2022)

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Kay Anderson, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Levi Bontrager, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Don Deffenbaugh, Kathy Friend, Rile Friend, Beth Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Pete Griffin, Molly Jackson, Lexie Kidd, Shanna Kraft (Cheryl's daughter), Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Bob Murray, Tim Murray, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Harold Speir, Edith Toney, Ken Tyler.

- Tim Murray will have surgery on March 8.
- Debi Wince's daughter, Katherine Enfield, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Brandon Ross, Katherine's son, will have another brain surgery in April.
- Pat Risley is now confined to home. No visitors please.

Jim Langley came and asked for the prayers of the church to be restored and to be a part of our congregation.

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a member with some medical bills. If you know someone in need, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is Tuesdays at 7:00 in the activities center. Enjoy a devotional, food and fellowship.

If you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

Please sign the **cards** on the welcome desk for some kids at Fair Haven and for some of our shut-Ins.

Men's Breakfast will be Thursday morning at 7:00 at Braum's. Come for the fellowship. Enjoy the food.

Today's Sermons



A.M.: *The God Who Sets Man Free*
(1 Cor. 1:18-31, Danny Boggs)

P.M.: *Love Yourself? Hate Yourself?*
(Leviticus 19:18, Caleb Boggs)

Several of our members will be going to Oklahoma City this Friday and Saturday for **Affirming the Faith**. It is a great event, and we pray for their safety and for the opportunity to study God's word and meet with other Christians.

Be a blessing to the residents of **Gran Villas** by joining us next Sunday for a devotional there at 1:30.

Ladies, our annual **Ladies seminar** is March 10 and 11 with Jill Jackson. She will present lessons on the *Principles in Proverbs*. Here is how you can help make this a successful weekend:

- Plan to attend, and pray for the event.
- Take flyers from the welcome desk and give to friends.
- See Molly Cobb if you can host some of our out of town guests.
- Give money to Brenda Kimbrough for a welcome bag for Jill.
- Sign up on the bulletin board to bring food for Saturday.

Ruth Rally for teen girls is March 31-April 1. See Bethany Boggs if you are interested.

Save the Date: Neosho Christian School **Benefit Banquet** will be April 1.

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for blessing us with diapers, wipes and other baby items for Emmett. We have such a loving church family and we are blessed to be a part of this congregation. Thank you for your kindness.

In Him,
Taylor, Victoria, Sophie, Syla and Emmett

The new quarter of Adult Bible Classes begins next Sunday. Come at 9:00 to be a part of one of the Sunday morning classes. Wednesday classes begin at 7:00.

Sunday

Life of Christ: The Gospels

Auditorium: Bill Reiboldt, Pat Andrews

2 Corinthians

Room 29: John Deffenbaugh, Glen Honeycutt

Intentional Christianity: 12 Lessons from God's Word to Bring Purpose to Your Spiritual Life

Fellowship Room: Jason Giebler

How to be Right Without Being Wrong

Young Adults: Danny Boggs

Wednesday

1 Peter

Auditorium: Josh King, John Deffenbaugh

1 and 2 Thessalonians like It's the First Time

Fellowship Room: Danny Boggs

Digging Deeper: The God of All Comfort

Ladies: AC: Becky Cobb and Carla Murray (facilitators)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

AM Opening Prayer: Josh King
AM Closing Prayer: Todd Tyler
Communion Prayers: John Deffenbaugh
PM Opening Prayer: Bill Reiboldt
PM Closing Prayer: Jared Hyder

This Wednesday

Announcements: Lowell McInturff
Singing: Zane Berner
Invitation: Taylor Keith
Opening Prayer: Casey Flint
Closing Prayer: Mike Hinman

RECORDS

	2-19-23	2-20-22
Bible Study	144	140
AM Worship	235	197
PM Worship	132	114
Wednesday	128	ice
Contribution	\$9,331.54	\$9,300.03
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00