

## Speaking Truth In Love

Who is a proper candidate for baptism? In the New Testament, a person was not baptized until he met the following conditions:

**Belief:** Jesus stated, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved”* (Mark 16:16). Belief is the result of hearing and understanding the gospel (Rom 10:17). One cannot be baptized until he believes. Therefore, a person who is not capable of believing the facts and conditions of the gospel is not a candidate for baptism.

**Repentance:** *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’”* (Acts 2:38). One cannot be baptized until he repents. John refused to baptize those who would not repent (Matt 3:7-8). Therefore one who is not capable of repenting from sin is not a candidate for baptism.

**Confession of Christ:** *“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’”* (Acts 8:36-37). One cannot be baptized who cannot make this confession. Therefore, one who is not capable of confessing the divinity of Jesus is not a candidate for baptism.

Those persons, who are not competent —infants, for example—are not proper candidates for the baptism commanded by Christ.

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
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