

## **"BAPTISM, WHO PERFORMS IT"**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

When one comes to a decision in his/her life to become a Christian, how important is it that the baptism is performed by a certain person? **Some** contend that if one is not an ordained minister then it is not valid. **Others** contend that if it is performed by a minister other than of the church that they are associated with that it is not a recognizable baptism. **Still others** insist that the words, "You are being baptized, for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit", must be used or the baptism is not an authoritative baptism.

If a minister who performs one's wedding becomes unfaithful to his wife and obtains a divorce, is one's marriage not still legal. If an arresting Police Officer of a traffic offense becomes a criminal and ends up in prison, does that mean that the record is wiped clean of the traffic offense?

Where is **the real issue in baptism**? Is it not in the personal commitment that one is making to the Savior? Sure it is and not who is the administrator or where the baptism is taking place or the day or hour of the week.

**There have been many believers who have made an effort to cooperate with those who disagree with them, who study on the area of the disagreement and try to be kind about it. Then, there have been many who have debated others concerning their differences and have not been very kind during the debates, whether they be oral or written debates.**

No doubt, although Jesus prayed for His followers to **love one another** and to **be united** – still man in his stubbornness will go in many different directions. This is just **a fact of life**. I am certain that Jesus does not like this, just as He hates division in the home. However, in all of our disagreements, even though Jesus warned of false teachers" (II Peter 2:1), may we be people exhibiting the spirit of love as Jesus taught us (John 13:34-35) and yes, the Bible must be the standard.

**KYOWVA Evangelistic Association**  
1541 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. \* Ironton, OH 45638  
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