

6. Acts 16:15 -- Lydia and her household

In this instance we do not know whether or not there were any infant children in Lydia's household. We know she had a business selling purple fabrics. Did she have a husband, or was she a widow? Did her household include children, infants, slaves, servants? We do not know.

All we are told is: (a) she listened to Paul sharing the gospel; (b) the Lord opened her heart; (c) she responded favorably to the message; (d) she and her household were baptized.

Were the members of her household baptized on their own profession (except, of course, for infants, if any were present), or were they baptized on the profession of Lydia? We are not told.

7. Acts 16:33 the Philippian Jailor and his household

Verses 31-34 tell us: "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household."

Actually, the second half of verse 34 can be translated either as "he rejoiced with all his house, he having believed in God," or as "he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his house."

In this instance we are not told whether there were infant children in this household. The exhortation to "Believe in the Lord Jesus" would of course be addressed to those capable of saving faith, and not to infants.

Notice what this passage specifically teaches:

- (a) All members of the household were to believe in order to be saved.
- (b) All members capable of understanding heard the Word of God
- (c) Either the jailor and his house rejoiced that he believed in God, or the jailor rejoiced and he and his house believed in God.
- (d) All members of the household were baptized immediately.

8. Acts 18:8 -- Crispus and all his household (cp. also I Cor. 1:14)

No infants are mentioned here. However, since Crispus is said to have believed in the Lord with all his household, the strong implication is that those who were baptized were all adults.

This is further confirmed by the statement that many of the Corinthians were believing and being baptized.