



Baptism

Lesson 5 Baptism

Introduction: *We said there are certain means (“tools”) that the Holy Spirit uses to create and to preserve faith. Besides the written or spoken Word, he also uses the sacraments.*

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

It's a sacred act

- 1) *instituted by God himself*
- 2) *involving earthly (physical) elements*
- 3) *by which God conveys to us forgiveness of sins, new life & salvation.*

The two sacraments which God gives to his people are:

WHEN WAS BAPTISM INSTITUTED?

Matthew 28:18-19 “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Written...

Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the **washing with water through the word,**

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in the name of** the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

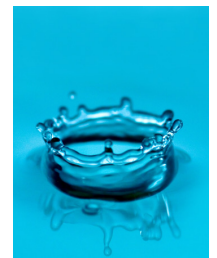
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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BAPTIZE “IN THE NAME OF”?

WHAT DOES THE GREEK WORD *baptizo* MEAN?

Written...that
you may
have life.

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Baptism — water used by God's command and connected with God's Word





HOW CAN APPLYING WATER TO A PERSON DO SUCH POWERFUL THINGS?

Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the **washing with water** through the **word**, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

John 3:5 No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

WHAT BLESSINGS ARE CONVEYED THROUGH BAPTISM?

Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call.

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

1 Peter 3:20-21 In it (*Noah's ark*) only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

Acts 22:16 Be baptized and wash your sins away.

Galatians 3:26,27 ²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Titus 3:5-7 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been declared innocent by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Romans 6:3-5 ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.



WHY DO SOME CHURCHES BAPTIZE CHILDREN WHILE OTHERS SAY A CHILD MUST REACH AN "AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY" BEFORE THEY ARE BAPTIZED?

The idea of an "age of accountability" is not found in the Bible. It is based on the human assumption that a small child or infant is not sinful (a) or at least cannot be held accountable for the sins he or she commits (b). Some also reason that an infant can't have faith in Jesus (c).

WHY THEN DO WE AS LUTHERANS BAPTIZE BABIES?

Written...

Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Romans 5:12,18,19 ¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water & the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Genesis 8:21 Every inclination of his [mankind's heart] is evil from childhood.

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.

Romans 8:7 the sinful mind is hostile to God, it does not submit to his law nor can it do so.

We baptize infants because they are sinful and do need the rebirth that God gives through Baptism.

Ephesians 2:3 We were by nature objects of wrath.

We baptize infants because they are by nature sinful and are under the wrath of God.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

We baptize infants that God might bring them to himself.



Matthew 18:6 ⁶ But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Luke 18:15-17 ¹⁵ People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, “**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**” ¹⁷ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

We bring infants to be baptized because we trust that through Baptism God will work faith in their hearts.

1Corinthians 1:16; Acts 10:47,48; 16:15,33 — households being baptized

Irenaeus (d.202) disciple of Polycarp, disciple of John, speaks of people of all ages, from infants up to the oldest, as reborn through Christ.

Justin Martyr (d.165) speaks about becoming disciples of Christ from childhood.

Origen (d.254) did extensive research work and indicated that the custom to grant Baptism to children had been handed down to the church by the apostles.

265 A.D. synod at Carthage, the question was asked if Baptism might be administered before the eighth day. The synod answered that the grace of rebirth might not be legitimately withheld from anyone who had been born.

Infant Baptism was practiced in the early church.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mark 10:13 People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**” ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

We baptize infants because they are included in Christ's command, and it is the Savior's wish that we bring our children to him in obedience to his command and trusting in his promises.

Consider: Is there anything in the Scriptures that says we shouldn't baptize babies? [nothing]



WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN FOR ME TODAY?

LUTHER SAYS.... (SMALL CATECHISM: PART 4 *The sacrament of Holy Baptism*) THE MEANING OF BAPTISM FOR OUR DAILY LIFE

What does baptizing with water mean?

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

Saint Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were...buried with [Christ] through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

1. Who may perform a baptism? (Matthew 28:19)
2. Why do pastors usually do the baptizing? (1Corinthians 14:40)
3. Why do some parents designate sponsors or godparents for a child being baptized?
4. When should we baptize our children?
5. When should an adult be baptized? (Acts 16:31-33)



Illustration: Have you ever planted a tomato plant by seed? What would happen to a little tomato plant that has just sprouted if you put it in the closet at the beginning of May and didn't open the closet door until September?

6. What happens to babies who die without baptism?
7. How is the water to be applied in baptism?
8. Why was Jesus baptized? (Matthew 3:15)
9. Why are some baptismal fonts placed in the entryway of a church sanctuary?
10. Why does the pastor make the sign of the cross when he speaks the names of the Trinity during the divine service?
11. What's with the big candle by the baptismal font?