

## Baptism

***Every Christian ought to have at least an ordinary, brief instruction about the Sacraments, because without them he cannot be a Christian.***

### 1. The foundation of Baptism: the Word of God.

- x Matthew 28:19 – The “Great Commission”
  - ✓ Mark 16:16, Romans 6:1-5, 1 Peter 3:21, Colossians 2:11-12
- x *Let us not doubt that Baptism is Divine. It is not made up or invented by people.*
  - ✓ *Yet, the world is now so full of sects arguing that Baptism is an outward thing and that outward things are of no benefit. But let Baptism be an outward thing. Here stand God's Word and command...What God institutes cannot be empty.*
- x *From this now learn a proper understanding of the subject and how to answer the question of what Baptism is. It is not mere ordinary water, but water comprehended in God's Word and command, and sanctified by them. So it is nothing other than divine water. Not that the water in itself is nobler than other water, but that God's Word and command are added to it.*
- x *Therefore, Baptism is not only natural water, but a divine, heavenly, holy and blessed water...For it has an ability to do all that God can do....*

### 2. The “Pure Wickedness and Blasphemy of the Devil” in our “New Spirits”

- x The mocking of Baptism: *They look at baptism in no other way than as water that is taken from the well. They blather and say, “How does a handful of water help the soul?” Yes, my friend, who does not know that water is water?...But how dare you interfere with God's order? [!] How dare you tear away the most precious treasure with which God has connected and enclosed Baptism...For the kernel in the water is God's...name. His name is a treasure greater...than heaven and earth.*

### 3. The Purpose of Baptism – what it profits, gives and works: ***it SAVES.***

- x Mark 16:16 – Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.
- x Acts 2:38 – Repent and be baptized, every one of you, for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the Holy Spirit.
- x 1 Peter 3:21 – Baptism now saves you, not as the removal of dirt from the body, but as the pledge of a good conscience before God.
- x Romans 6:3ff – Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- x Colossians 2:11-12 – In [Jesus] you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God.

### 4. Faith and its Object – ***But our would-be-wise “new spirits” are so crazy that they separate faith and the object to which faith clings and is bound....***

- x The entire Gospel is an outward, physical thing – Christ, Word...
  - ✓ Faith clings to the object
- x The Word which creates faith then also promises Baptism
  - ✓ Faith ***still*** clings to the object – or rejects it in unbelief. *Whoever rejects Baptism rejects God's Word, faith and Christ, who directs us to Baptism and binds us to Baptism.*

**5. Baptism and Worthiness** – Baptism works, but is of no benefit, without faith.

- x Baptism is not a work of man which saves, but a work of God to be believed. It is only by believing what God **promises** in baptism that baptism is of value to you. If you refuse to believe it, then you have nothing to believe!
  - ✓ *But if the new spirits say, as they are accustomed, “Still, Baptism is itself a work, and you say works are of no use for salvation...” Answer: “Yes, our works, indeed, do nothing for salvation. Baptism, however, is not our work, but God's.” ... God's works **are** saving and necessary for salvation. They do not exclude, but demand faith.*
  - ✓ Faith in what? → Faith in **his** work. *Therefore, every Christian has enough in Baptism to learn and to do all his life. For he always has enough to do by believing firmly what Baptism promises and brings: victory over death and the devil, and forgiveness of sins, God's grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with his gifts.*
  - ✓ ***We must think this way about Baptism and make it profitable for ourselves. So when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say, “Nevertheless, I am baptized. And if I am baptized, it is promised to me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body.”***
  - ✓ *No other kind of life, no work upon earth, can do this. [!]*

6. ---- (next page – Infant Baptism) -----

**7. The Significance of Baptism** – Death and resurrection as a way of life: dying and rising daily.

- x The Christian life is a daily return to Baptism
  - ✓ The purging of the Old Adam: anger, hate, envy, unchastity, stinginess, laziness, arrogance and unbelief – these things must daily decrease.
  - ✓ Where this is not done, the old man is unbridled and daily becomes stronger – threatening faith and life.
- x The “third” Sacrament – repentance, and the confession of sins
  - ✓ → an attack on the old man undertaken under the promises of Baptism.
- x Baptism abides forever: *even though someone should fall, ...still we always have access to it. So we may subdue the old man again. We do not need to be sprinkled with water again....[But] we repeat and do what we began before.*
- x **For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. - Galatians 3:27**
  - ✓ ....Christ and him crucified for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Infant Baptism** – *Here a question arises by which the devil, through his sects, confuses the world. [!]*

x Luther's tactics:

✓ Infant baptism is pleasing to God is proved because baptized infants grow up having the Holy Spirit and faith.

x **Tremendously True:** For at least 1300 years the Church has almost *only* baptized infants. Shall we believe that true Christianity completely vanished and was only restored by the “new spirits” of the 1500's?

x How could God bless with faith so many who had been “disobedient” to God's “ordinance” to have a “believer's baptism” or some other things?

✓ Whether one believes or not has nothing to do with whether a Baptism works or not.

x *Everything depends on God's Word....When the Word is added to the water, Baptism is valid, even though faith is lacking. For my faith does not **make** Baptism, but **receives** it.*

x *Even though infants did not believe (which, however, is not the case), still their Baptism would be valid. ... How dare we think that God's Word and ordinance should be wrong and invalid because we make a wrong use of it.*

x *In infant Baptism, we bring the child in the conviction and hope that it believes, and we pray that God may grant it faith. But we do not baptize it for that reason, but solely because of God's command. ...we know that God does not lie.*

✓ The abuse does not negate the use.

x *They are arrogant, clumsy minds that draw together such ideas and conclusions as ...”Where there is no true faith, there also cannot be true Baptism.” That is as if I would conclude, “If I do not believe, then Christ is nothing.”*

✓ Or...if I disobey my parents, then they are not my parents.

✓ Or...if I do not believe in judgment day, then there will not be a judgment day.

x Rather, it is because there is a judgment day that you must be ready for it, because you have parents that you must obey, because Christ is something that you must trust him, and because you are baptized, that you might believe!

x *“Abuse does not destroy the essence but confirms it.”* That is, you cannot abuse something that has no value. If baptism is only a symbol and a sign, then there is no way to abuse it by giving it to infants!

x **Those who deny baptism are “fanatics” because, know it or not, they are rejecting God's Word and faith.**

✓ *These people, the fanatics, are so blind that they do not see God's Word and command. They think about Baptism and those who administer it just like they think about water in the brook....Because they do not see faith or obedience in infants, they conclude that infant Baptisms are to be considered invalid. **Here lurks a concealed and rebellious devil**, who would like to tear the crown from authority's head and then trample it underfoot....he would like to pervert and reduce all God's works and ordinances to nothing. Therefore, we must be watchful and well armed. **We must not allow ourselves to be directed or turned away from the Word**, in order that we may not think of Baptism as a mere empty sign, like the fanatic's dream [of it.]*