

## **BAPTISM**

Baptism is a sacrament

- A. **What is a sacrament?** (the word Sacrament is from the Latin "sacramentum" which Jerome used to translate the Greek word for "mysteries".

'Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.' 1 Corinthians 4:1)

1. It is a sacred (holy) act,
2. Instituted by Christ Himself,
3. Joined together with earthly elements,
4. Connected with the command of Christ to continue doing it,
5. Through which we receive the forgiveness of sins.

According to this definition all Lutheran Christians agree that Baptism and Holy Communion are sacraments.

The Confessions of the Lutheran Church sometimes refer to absolution as a sacrament but not everybody agrees with this.

- B. **How is Baptism a sacrament?**

1. It was instituted by Christ (Matthew 28 and John 3)
2. According to John 3:6, Baptism is an act of the Holy Spirit which means it comes from God and is therefore sacred.
3. John 3 tells us that water, an earthly element, is used for this new birth.
4. Jesus tells us in Matthew 28 to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them.
5. Acts 2:38 tells us we are baptized for the forgiveness of our sins and that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- C. **Bible passages from which we learn the importance of Holy Baptism.**

1. **Ezekiel 36:24-33** Baptism in prophecy
2. **Matthew 3:11-17** (Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-23; John 3:22-30)
  - a. Luke says that "the Word of God came to John" and that he preached "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."
  - b. When Jesus was baptized it was "to fulfill all righteousness"; Sinless, he nonetheless walks the way of the cross with my sin.
3. **Matthew 28:16-20** The Great Commission.
4. **Mark 16:16** Baptism is connected with salvation; however only "he who does not believe will be condemned (cf. thief on the cross)
5. **Luke 15:11-32** This passage teaches the Father's patient, waiting love and that repentance is the way of returning to the Father's house.
6. **John 3:1-15** This passage shows the need for being born again and according to verse 6 it shows that everyone born of the flesh is flesh, which we believe that everyone born into a human family needs to be protected by a spiritual birth. Verse 6 also clearly teaches that it is the Spirit (not our decision) which gives birth to Spirit. See also John 1:13.
7. **Acts 2:37-42**
  - A. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sin.
  - B. To baptize in the Name of Jesus Christ is to baptize in the way He commanded us to baptize in Matthew 28:18-20 "in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
  - C. The baptized receive the Holy Spirit.
  - D. "The promise is for you and your children" (Greek: "little ones")
  - E. The baptized devote themselves to:
    1. Bible study (the Apostles' teaching)
    2. Worship (the fellowship)
    3. Holy Communion (the breaking of bread)
    4. Prayer (this is singular, one's life of prayer)
8. **Acts 8:26-40**
  - A. Philip, by request, tells the Ethiopian "The Good News about Jesus"
  - B. He asks Philip to baptize him.

9. **Acts 9:** The Baptism of Saul who would later become Paul. (notice of attitude of Ananias. Only the Holy Spirit could create this.)
  10. **Acts 10:34-48** The first Baptism of Gentiles
    - A. Vss. 34-43 Peter's sermon
    - B. While Peter spoke, the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentile believers.
    - C. Vss. 47-48 Peter orders companions to baptize them.
    - D. Acts 11:16-18 Peter defend baptizing Gentiles.
  11. **Acts 16:11-15** Lydia's entire household is baptized.
    - A. Does a census include little children in a household?
    - B. The households often included children and their families and their families.
  12. **Acts 16:25-34** The jailer and his family were baptized.
    - A. In answer to the jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas answer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." They were baptized immediately.
    - B. The whole family was filled with joy over their new life and faith
  13. **Acts 19:1-6** (see Matthew 3:11-17 above)
  14. **Acts 22:16** Paul retells his baptism, how Ananias said "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name."
  15. **Romans 6:3-11** (read entire chapter) the spiritual meaning of Baptism.
    - A. In Baptism we die with Jesus. (Negro Spiritual: Were you there?)
    - B. In Baptism we are buried with Jesus.
    - C. In Baptism we are raised with Jesus to new life.
    - D. We change masters. We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves of Jesus Christ and His righteousness.
  16. **1st Corinthians 1:16** Paul baptized the household of Stephanus.
  17. **1st Corinthians 6:11** "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."
  18. **1st Corinthians 12:12-13** Baptism and the Body of Christ. (chapter 12)
    - A. The Spirit makes us one Body (men and women treated equally).
    - B. Each of us have an important function in the Body.
  19. **Galatians 3:27** "for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ"
    - A. Our sins and our own righteousness are like filthy rags (Is.)
    - B. "Christ Jesus is our brand new suit." see also 2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
  20. **Ephesians 4:4-6** "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."
  21. **Ephesians 5:25-27** The love of Jesus in baptizing the church is the kind of complete love that a husband should have for his wife.
  22. **Colossians 2:6-15**
    - A. Baptism compared to circumcision. (Baptism is referred to as circumcision without the hands of man.)
    - B. God made you alive with Christ.
  23. **Titus 3:1-8**
    - A. Baptism is God's activity (He is the subject of all the verbs)
    - B. Baptism is connected with salvation. Vs. 5
    - C. Baptism is referred to as "the washing of rebirth (regeneration)" "and renewal by the Holy Spirit we he poured out on us"
    - D. Through it, we become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
  24. **1 Peter 3:21** (vss. 18-22) "Baptism now saves you also. . .It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
- D. Review Luther's Small Catechism on Holy Baptism. Having gone through all the above scripture first, one sees what a concise and beautiful summary it is.