

Sunday Evening, May 26, 2024  
CHAP. XXVIII. - *Of Baptism*

1. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, by which the person baptized is solemnly admitted into the visible church. Baptism is also for him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his engrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of forgiveness of sins, and of surrender to God through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. By Christ's own appointment, this sacrament is to be continued in his church until the end of the age.
2. The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water, with which the person is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is to be performed by a minister of the gospel, lawfully called to that office.
3. Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary. Baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling water on the person.
4. Not only those who personally profess faith in and obedience to Christ, but also the infants of one or both believing parents, are to be baptized.
5. Although it is a great sin to despise or neglect this ordinance, nevertheless, grace and salvation are not so inseparably connected with it that a person cannot be regenerated or saved without it. Neither is it true that all who are baptized are undoubtedly regenerated.
6. The efficacy of Baptism is not tied to that moment of time when it is administered. Nevertheless, by the right use of this ordinance, the grace promised is not only offered but really exhibited and conferred by the Holy Spirit to all (whether adults or infants) to whom that grace belongs, according to the counsel of God's own will, in his appointed time.
7. The sacrament of Baptism is to be administered only once to any person.

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- I. Administration of Baptism Sect 2
  - A. Who Is to Administer Baptism
  - B. How Is Baptism to be Administered?
    1. With the Words of Institution Matt 28:19, 20; Exo. 20:7; Eccl. 5:4–6; Deut. 23:21
    2. With the Element of Water  
Gen. 17:14; Eph. 2:11, 12; Matt. 3:16; Ac. 8:36, 38; Ac 10:47
- II. Mode of Baptism Sect 3
  - A. Why We Does the Confession Teach Baptism by Sprinkling or Pouring?
    1. Mode of Baptism Is Derived from the Reality of Holy Spirit's Baptism on the Church  
Ac. 1:5, 8; Ac. 2:3, 17, 33 (10:44, 11:15,16); Isa. 32:15; Isa. 44:3; Isa. 52:15; Joel 2:28; Ezek. 36:25–27; 2 Cor. 1:21, 22

***G I Williamson "Submersion cannot be proved to have been the mode in a single instance in Scripture."***

***A A Hodge "Baptism of the Holy Spirit of which baptism is the emblem, is never set forth in Scripture as an immersion, but always, as a pouring and sprinkling."***

2. Mode of Baptism that Was Practiced by the Apostles was Affusion not Submersion  
Ac. 10:44–48; Ac. 16:33; Ac. 9:18, 22:16
3. Mode of Baptism that Was Practiced by the Church was Affusion

***A.A. Hodge "The earliest pictorial representations of baptism, dating from the 2nd or 3rd century, all indicate that the manner of applying the water to the body of the baptized was pouring."***

4. Mode of Baptism That Best Reflects the Catholicity of the Church is Affusion
- B. Why We Believe the Bible Does Not Require the Mode of Submersion
1. Response to: verses saying they went down into the water, and came up out of the water
  2. Response to: Paul says we are buried with Christ in baptism - Rom. 6:4, 10
  3. Response to: Does the Greek word, "baptizo" only mean immerse / submerge?  
Dan. 4:23; Compare Mk. 7:3–4, Lk. 11:38; Matt. 15:2, 20.  
Num. 19:9, 13,20. See also 2 Kin 5:14; Heb. 9:9–10, 19–22; Exo. 30:18–21  
Mk. 7:4; 1 Cor. 10:1, 2; 1 Pet. 3:20–21

***Charles Hodge "The word baptizo and its cognates is used with such latitude of meaning, as to prove the assertion that the command to baptize is a command to immerse, to be utterly unauthorized and unreasonable."***

- III. Importance of Baptism Sect 5
- A. Necessity of Baptism, Is Not a Necessity of Means  
Lk. 23:40–43; Ac. 10:45–47; 8:13, 23
  - B. Necessity of Baptism, Is Necessity of Precept  
Gen. 17:14; Exo. 4