

Theology Simply Explained — WSC95 “Water Baptism Is Only for All Members of the Visible Church”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 95—especially explaining that visible (water) baptism is only for all members of the visible church, which means that it is for infants whom the Lord adds by pure providence, just as much as those whom the Lord adds by the providence of profession of faith and obedience.

Q95. To whom is baptism to be administered? **Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to Him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.**

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

This week's catechism question. Is. To him is baptism to be administered. And the answer is baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church. Until they profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him. But the infants of such as our members of the visible church, Are to be baptized.

So, it's an interesting question. An interesting answer to the question because the question is did him is baptism to be administered. Let it starts with a negative baptism, is not. To be administered to any that are out to the visible church. And why is that? The answer is. Because baptism marks those who are members of Christ's visible church.

Baptism marks those who are Consecrated to himself as holy. Which does come in these two ways. One, they are the professing. Those who profess faith in Christ and obedience to him and the other As they are the children of such. Belonging to them and belonging to their households and being part of his church.

The Lord made this. Planar to us. By the sign of circumcision. Although even without the sign of circumcision we can tell By the way that God has ordered, Humanity. By the way that God has ordered the society of his church, by the way that God has ordered Even public society outside of his church that he organizes it by household.

So, it starts out with this negative Uh, to indicate or or Um, In connection with the fact that baptism is a sign and seal for admission. Into. The visible church. And by giving a circumcision in addition to the providential way in which he's ordered, Uh churches and nations societies to fall out especially by household.

He makes it that much more plain That people and their children. Are taken together the children. Are taken. Within and under, Um, As represented federally represented represented by especially their father, but With respect to the church. We know from first Corinthians 7, for instance, even if just the mother is a professing believer.

Uh, the child is treated as consecrated every bit as much as if his father had been holy, Some people miss make a mistake there in first Corinthians 7. Uh, they think that oh well then that means The father or the husband is holy for himself. If the wife Stays with him and stays in the church.

Um, The problem with that is that the dad is Being plainly identified as an unbeliever there. In first Corinthians 7 and that. Uh, the primary question. For her, for the purpose of staying is with respect to the children. But even then, you see this concern, With how the child is considered with respect to the covenantal status of his dad or her dad.

Uh, shows. That the the children of believing parents are considered by God members of the church. And so, you could just Answer. Uh number 95 to whom is baptism to be administered. Baptism is to be administered to members of the visible church. The end And yet, there is that question, then of how does someone who is not a member of the visible church?

Come to be a member of the visible church. Now, you all praise God. From your conception, you were members of the visible church. The only thing that kept you from baptizing, you At first, was you weren't yet born? And so we had to wait for you to be born.

In order to baptize you, there you Are you an infant baptizer? And well, I would be an embryo baptizer if we could. Uh, but yes. Um, you have always been members of the physical church, but what if you weren't, What if you had not? Been given by God and has wisdom and providence and plan and election.

Uh, to be The children of believing parents. For how would you come to be a member of the visible church? Yourself and say, I'd like to join. Well, in some cases, I guess. We're churches are unfairful. That could be the case. Um, But you have to profess faith in Jesus Christ.

You have to confess him. As. As the God, man. Who became a man to live and die and rise again for centers. And that he is your God and he is your only hope for redemption. That he is your life. He is your Lord. And that last part, of course, includes obedience.

That's Part of the repentance part and it's something that the Spirit always produces and those who are believing in Jesus. Just because the two always go together, it doesn't mean that repentance earns. You're standing with God at all. But, They do always go together because The Spirit who gives life always gives faith and repentance and the Christ in whom you believe always produces.

Uh, ongoing repentance in the heart. He is a Christ to his who is God and King. And therefore, he is not just to be trusted in but also obeyed and so that's why you have This language, and And that's 241 uc. The. The people repenting and believing. And, Being baptized.

Upon their admission, to the visible church. By profession faith in Christ and obedience to him. So, That's who to be but who's to be baptized members of the church. If you come to be a member of the church by The Lord putting you in his church, from the start, you are to be baptized from the start.

If you start outside the church, you can't be baptized until Uh, you Profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to him. So the question is to whom is baptism to be administered. And the answer is baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church till they profess, their faith in Christ and obedience to him.

But, The infants of such as our members of the visible church are To be baptized. You could even say but their infants who are members of the physical church, that's not what it says. But the infants of such as our members of the visible church, Or to be baptized.