

NEW LIFE WITH GOD

Unit 8: The Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Baptism

June 23, 2024

CONTINUITY

1. It takes all three Persons of the Holy Trinity to save a person
2. Holy Spirit sanctifies (makes us holy) through the Word of God
3. Holy Spirit imparts diverse *Spiritual Gifts* at conversion.
4. Holy Spirit imparts *Fruit of the Spirit* in different degrees - guides using gifts.
5. Holy Spirit inspired (God breathed) the Scriptures (inspire, inerrant)

INTRODUCTION

A. REDEMPTION OF CHRIST is distributed through the Means of Grace.

1. THE WORD OF GOD (Spoken, Written, Digital, Visible, Incarnate)=
2. THE SACRAMENTS

- a. Greek **μυστήριον** (*mystērion*) means 'mystery'
- b. Latin translation of Greek *mystērion*: **SACRAMENTUM**
- c. **1 CORINTHIANS 4:1** *This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*
- d. Define 'sacraments' according to *decreed ordinances* in the Word.

B. Definition of a *Sacrament* (1 Corinthians 4:1)

1. Sacred action [something is conveyed - not just words]
2. Instituted by God [divine initiation]
3. Visible elements from the world
4. Word and Command of God behind it [Go and Baptize! Do this often!]
5. Promises and Gives the Forgiveness of Sins

C. Two sacraments fit this biblical (not philosophical) definition

1. Holy Baptism
2. Lord's Supper

I. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

A. WATER connected to *God's Word* and *Direct Command*

1. **MATTHEW 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in(to)** the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...*

2. Therefore, water baptism is not **OPTIONAL** to our salvation.
3. **SACRAMENT OF ENTRANCE** into God's Family [the Christian Church].
4. Baptism is the *external sign* of what happens *internally* [cleansing of sin].
5. GOD'S WORD connected to the Water is the power of baptism.

a. 1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

b. TITUS 3:5-7

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

6. Adult Baptism *seals* the promise of forgiveness to the adult individual.
7. INFANT BAPTISM *causes* the forgiveness and salvation of the
8. One can *fall* from baptismal grace by rejecting Word and Promise of Christ.
9. The mode of water application is NOT the issue is water baptism.

a. ROMANS 6:1-4

b. βαπτίζω includes immersion, sprinkling, pouring washing

10. Valid Baptism: WATER + WORD OF PROMISE + NAME OF TRIUNE GOD

11. Sponsors (Lutheran Christians) and Witnesses (Non-Lutheran Christians)

B. THE ISSUE OF INFANT BAPTISM

1. Infants are sinful (Romans 6:23 and Psalm 51:1-5).
2. Infants can believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior (Ephesians 2:8-9)

C. OLD TESTAMENT ROOTS OF HOLY BAPTISM

1. GENESIS 17:9-14 (Law of Circumcision at 8-days old)
2. COLOSSIANS 2:9-12 (Baptism replaces Circumcision)

D. BAPTISM MUST BE CONTINUED THROUGH INSTRUCTION IN THE WORD.

1. Baptism saves - but it is not a magical guarantee of heaven.
2. INFANT BAPTISM *initiates* a saving relationship with God - but that relationship can be severed by neglect or despising of the Word and Sacraments.