

Chapter 28

Concerning Baptism

1. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ.¹ By baptism a person is solemnly admitted into the visible church.² Baptism is also a sign and seal of the covenant of grace,³ of the believer's ingrafting into Christ,⁴ of rebirth,⁵ of remission of sins,⁶ and of the believer's yielding to God through Jesus Christ to walk in newness of life.⁷ By Christ's own direction this sacrament is to be continued in His church until the end of the world.⁸

2. The physical substance to be used in this sacrament is water. The person is to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit⁹ by a lawfully called minister of the gospel.¹⁰

3. Dipping the person into the water is not necessary. Baptism is correctly administered by pouring or sprinkling water on the person.¹¹

4. Not only those who actually profess faith in and obedience to Christ are to be baptized¹² but also the infants of one or both believing parents.¹³

5. Although it is a great sin to condemn or neglect this sacrament,¹⁴ baptism is not inseparably connected with God's grace and salvation. One can be saved and reborn without baptism,¹⁵ and, on the other hand, everyone who is baptized is not therefore unquestionably reborn.¹⁶

6. The effectiveness of baptism is not tied to that moment in time in which it is administered.¹⁷ However, by the correct use of this sacrament the grace promised in it is not only offered but actually embodied and conferred by the Holy Spirit to everyone (adult or infant) to whom that grace is given, according to the purpose of God's own will and in His appointed time.¹⁸

7. The sacrament of baptism should be administered only once to a person.¹⁹

1. Matt 28:19; *)Mark 16:16*(.
2. *)I Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27,28*(; *(Acts 2:41; Acts 10:47)*.
3. Rom 4:11; Col 2:11,12; *(Gal 3:29)*.
4. Gal 3:27; Rom 6:(3,4,)5(.
5. Tit 3:5.
6. Mark 1:4; *Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16*.
7. Rom 6:3,4.
8. Matt 28:19,20.
9. *)Matt 3:11; John 1:33*(; *Matt 28:19,)*20(; *Acts 10:47; Acts 8:36,38; (Eph 4:11-13)*.
10. (see General Note).
11. *]Heb 9:10,19-21,)*22(]; *)Acts 2:41; Acts 16:33*(; *]Mark 7:4*(; *(Acts 1:5; Acts 2:3,4,17; Acts 11:15,16)*; *[Acts 10:46,47; I Cor 10:2]*.
12. *)Mark 16:15,16; Acts 8:37,38*(; (see citations under Section 1 above); *[Acts 9:18]*.
13. Gen 17:7,9,(10); Gal 3:9,14; *]Col 2:11,12*]; *Acts 2:38,39; Rom 4:11,12; I Cor 7:14*(; *)Matt 28:19*(; *Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15*[(,16); *Acts 16:14,15,33*.
14. Luke 7:30; *)Exod 4:24-26*(; *(Gen 17:14)*; *[Deut 28:9]*.
15. Rom 4:11; *Acts 10:)*2,4,22,31(,45,(46),47); *(Luke 23:40-43)*.
16. Acts 8:13,23.
17. John 3:5,8; *(Rom 4:11)*.
18. Gal 3:27; *)Tit 3:5*(; *Eph 5:25,26; Acts 2:38,(39,40),41*(; *(Eph 1:4,5; Acts 16:31,33)*.
19. *)Tit 3:5*(. (There is no command, and no adequate example for the repetition of baptism.)

Chapter 27

Concerning the Sacraments

1. Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace. They were instituted by God along with that covenant¹ to represent Christ and His benefits, to confirm our position with and in Him,² to demonstrate a visible difference between those who belong to the church and the rest of the world,³ and solemnly to engage believers in the service of God in Christ according to His word.⁴

2. In every sacrament there is a spiritual relationship or sacramental union between the sign and the thing signified. And so the names and effects of the one are attributed to the other.⁵

3. The grace revealed in or by sacraments in their right use does not come from any power in them. Neither does the effectiveness of a sacrament depend on the devoutness or the intention of whoever administers it. Rather the power and effectiveness of the sacraments are the result of the work of the Spirit⁶ and rest on God's word instituting them, since His word authorizes their use and promises benefits to worthy receivers of them.⁷

4. There are only two sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the gospel: baptism and the Lord's supper.⁸ Neither of these may be administered by anyone but a lawfully ordained minister of the word.⁹

5. The sacraments of the Old Testament signify and reveal in substance the same spiritual things as those of the New.¹⁰

1.)Rom 4:11(; Gen 17:7(, (9),10,(11);)Matt 28:19; I Cor 11:23(; (Exod 13:9,10; Exod 12:3-20).
2. I Cor 10:16; I Cor 11:25,26; Gal 3:27.
3.)]Rom 15:8[(; Exod 12:48;)]Gen 34:14[; I Cor 10:21(; (Heb 13:10; I Cor 11:27-29).
4. Rom 6:3,4; I Cor 10:[2], (14,15),16,)]21[(; (see context).

5. Gen 17:10; Matt 26:27,28; Tit 3:5.
6. Rom 2:28,29;)I Pet 3:21; Matt 3:11; I Cor 12:13(; (I Cor 3:7; I Cor 6:11; John 3:5; Acts 8:13-23).
7.)]Matt 26:27,28; Matt 28:19,20[(; (John 6:63); [Luke 22:19,20; I Cor 11:26].
8. Matt 28:19; I Cor 11:20,23;)I Cor 4:1; Heb 5:4(;
9. (see General Note.)
10.)I Cor 10:1-4(;)I Cor 5:7,8[; (Col 2:11,12).