

The Reformed Faith

Week 5 - Transformed by the Holy Spirit

What We Believe

1. Read Romans 6:1-11. Paul says that Christians were baptized into Christ's death.

What does that mean?

2. According to our text, what is the result of death?
3. What does our text promise for those who have died with Christ?
4. How does Paul expect Christians to emulate Jesus?

Reformed Theologians - John Knox

John Knox (c. 1514–1572), a Scottish reformer, was pivotal in establishing Presbyterianism and shaping Reformed theology. Initially a Catholic priest, Knox embraced Protestantism under George Wishart's influence, later studying under John Calvin in Geneva. Returning to Scotland, he led the Reformation, preaching against Catholic practices and promoting sola scriptura and predestination. His Scots Confession (1560) and Book of Discipline outlined Reformed doctrine and church governance, emphasizing God's sovereignty and scriptural authority. Knox's fiery sermons and organizational efforts established the Church of Scotland, influencing Reformed theology's spread, particularly in Presbyterian traditions, with lasting impact on global Reformed churches

Creeds and Confessions - The Belgic Confession

The Belgic Confession, drafted in 1561 by Guido de Brès in the Netherlands, articulates Reformed faith amid Catholic persecution. Modeled after the French Confession, it covers 37 articles, affirming God's sovereignty, Scripture's authority, the Trinity, creation, human depravity, Christ's atonement, justification by faith, and the church's role. Written to defend Protestant beliefs, it was adopted by the Synod of Dort (1619). In the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), the Belgic Confession is a doctrinal standard alongside the Heidelberg Catechism and Canons of Dort, used in worship, teaching, and church governance to guide theology and practice.

Catechism Corner - Heidelberg Catechism Q&A's 69-70

Q & A 69

Q. How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

A. In this way:

Christ instituted this outward washing (1)
and with it promised that,
as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body,
so certainly his blood and his Spirit
wash away my soul's impurity,
that is, all my sins. (2)

1 Acts 2:38

2 Matt. 3:11; Rom. 6:3-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Q & A 70

Q. What does it mean
to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

A. To be washed with Christ's blood means
that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins
because of Christ's blood
poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross. (1)

To be washed with Christ's Spirit means
that the Holy Spirit has renewed
and sanctified us to be members of Christ,
so that more and more
we become dead to sin
and live holy and blameless lives. (2)

1 Zech. 13:1; Eph. 1:7-8; Heb. 12:24; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:5

2 Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:5-8; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:11; Col. 2:11-12

God Speaks to Us

1. Have you died to sin? How do you know?
2. How have you been transformed by God?

God Speaks to Our Family

1. First CRC baptizes our children. Our text says that we are baptized in Christ's death so that we might be raised to new life in Christ. If we're baptized into Christ's death, why do our kids (and baptized adults) still sin?
2. How should parents respond to their children if their children see them sin

God Speaks in Worship

1. How does our worship recognize the need for us to transform from worldly people to godly people?
2. Read Heidelberg Catechism Q&A's 69-70. Sanctification is the process of growing in holiness and righteousness. Does washing with the water of baptism cause us to undergo sanctification?

The Gospel Call

1. Paul asks, "How can we who died to sin still live in it?" How important is our personal behavior when it comes to sharing our faith with unbelievers? Explain your answer.
2. When we call someone to Christ, we're calling them to die. Many people reject the gospel because it requires them to change. Besides death, what are we calling people to when we share the gospel? How would you counsel someone who says they can't become a Christian because they're just too wicked?

