

Improving Our Baptism

August 20, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

WLQ Q 165,167; Mt 28:19-20

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Jesus instituted 2 sacraments: Baptism & Lord's Table

Mt 28:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26, 29-30

Baptism:

Gives us new identity - Gal 3:27-29

Identifies us with Christ's Body - 1 Cor 12:12-13

Reminds us we are set apart for Christ - Col 2:8-12

Identifies us with Christ's record - 1 Pet 3:21-22

So How is our Baptism to be improved by us?

1. Baptism reminds me that I belong to God and not this world.

Baptism: buried with Christ into death: Rom 6:3

Baptism: like Christ raised from dead unto newness of life: Rom 6:4

2. Baptism reminds me to place my hope in God's promises

Mt 28:19; Col 2:11-12. Baptism is an outward sign & seal of God's provision for our righteousness through Christ's work

3. Baptism humbles me by depicting what my sin deserves and what I am now in Christ

Our sin deserves judgment Genesis 6-8 (worldwide flood by water)

Baptism reminds us that we are set free by Christ's work 1 Pet 3:21-22

4. Baptism gives me assurance & strength in my walk with Christ

Our assurance is in the Gospel - Baptism pictures our union with Christ

5. Baptism challenges me to walk in brotherly love

1 Cor 12:12-13. Our baptism shows us we are baptized into Christ's Body -

His Church so we now walk together in love - Eph 5:2

WLC Q167: "How is our baptism to be improved by us?"

A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others¹; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein²; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements³; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament⁴; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace⁵; and by endeavoring to live by faith⁶, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness⁷, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ⁸; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body⁹.

¹Col 2:11-12; Rom 6:4,6,11; Psa 22:10-11. ²Rom 6:3-5; 1 Pet 3:21. ³1 Cor 11:11-13; Rom 6:2-3. ⁴Rom 4:11-12; 1 Pet 3:21. ⁵Rom 6:3-5. ⁶Gal 3:26-27; ⁷Rom 6:22; ⁸Act 2:38; ⁹1 Cor 12:13,25

WLC Q165: "What is Baptism?"

Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost¹⁰, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself¹¹, of remission of sins by his blood¹², and regeneration by his Spirit¹³; of adoption¹⁴, and resurrection unto everlasting life¹⁵; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church¹⁶, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's¹⁷.

¹⁰Mt 28:19. ¹¹Gal 3:27. ¹²Mrk1:4. ¹³Rev 1:5. ¹⁴Tit 3:5; Eph 5:26. ¹⁵1 Cor 15:29; Rom 6:5. ¹⁶1 Cor 12:13. ¹⁷Rom 6:4.

Apply:

How often do you think about your baptism?

What would be the benefit to you? Others?

Take the 5 points mentioned – how can you apply them in your life to 'improve your baptism'?