

Every word of God is pure and all Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

CROSS AND CATECHISM: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

When I think of baptism, the cross isn't usually one of the first things that I think about. Is that true for you also? It seems like the Roman Christians at the time of the Apostle Paul's letter didn't either. His question to them in the verse before our text clearly intends to draw that connection. **3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** But what does this phrase mean? What connection was Paul teaching between my baptism and Jesus' death on the cross?

[illustrate] When a plant or tree drops its seeds in the fall season and 'dies,' those seeds come to life and produce more fruit. You might be wondering, in what way can seeds remind us of our Baptism? Jesus refers to baptism in John 3 as being 'born again.' We were outcast sinners, and **Isaiah 1:18** says... We need to be washed. We need cleansing! Through baptism, God the Father adopted us into His family through Christ! As we study the many Scriptures about baptism we get a wonderful understanding of the 'new life' we have been freely given in God's Kingdom. In **V4** Paul sums up relationship between Jesus' cross and our Baptism.

Baptism is one of God's Means of Grace in which His Gospel Word connects us in a very personal way to Jesus' death and resurrection. Paul wrote to the Galatian Christians, **"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ"** (3:26-27).

My baptism in Christ means that He washed me with His Word and water to forgive my sins, to pour out His Holy Spirit into my heart (**Titus 3:5-7**), to give me new life and spiritual growth, to 'put on' me His white robe of righteousness, and to give me this unending joy! Even during this season of Lent, which is typically a more somber season of the church year, it is amazingly comforting to know how and why Jesus went to the cross and grave for me.

My Catechism reminds me of Jesus' cross even when it comes to my baptism. I have been baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ my Lord. My prayer is that Christ Jesus my Savior would continue to pour out His amazing love and joy as I hear His Word and walk in this new life with Him! Amen.

WHO is Baptism for?

"All have sinned..."

For sinners!

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

WHAT is Baptism?

Baptizo = to wash... soap?

Sacrament = "Holy Act" (not ours, but God's)

-Instituted by Christ (**Matthew 28**) **Matthew 28:19-20** "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

-Uses earthly elements (water)

-Offers and gives us God's forgiveness (a gift – any age!)

Therefore, it is a Means of God's Grace... (**Titus 3**) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

WHEN is Baptism carried out?

Adults old and infants intelligence?

Parents bring to God – God's work (teach blessings before, or after)

"Let the children come to Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God..."

WHERE can Baptism be done?

(Acts 8) Philip and Eunuch, water (most abundant resource)

WHY is Baptism important?

1 Pet 3 = "Baptism now saves you," John 3 = "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." "The promise is for you and your children,"

HOW can water do such great things?

The Word of God (**Romans 1:16, 17**), life as disciple