

Baptism: Subjects, Mode, Meaning

March 31, 2019

Subjects

Charleston Confession Chapter 29

2. *Those who do actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to, our Lord Jesus Christ, are the only proper subjects of this ordinance. (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36, 37, 2:41, 8:12, 18:8)*

Act 2:41-42 So **those who received his word** were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Act 8:12 But **when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both **men and women**

Act 8:36-37 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (37) [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 18:8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

But what about the household baptisms?

Act 16:14-15 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (15) And after she was baptized, **and her household as well**, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Philippian jailer: Act 16:32-33 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. (33) And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

1Co 1:16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

It is important to remember all that we have discussed concerning the New Covenant. Yes, entire households were included in the Old Covenant, but the New Covenant is a better covenant – a different covenant. The Old Covenant did not save, but the New Covenant saves all who are in it. If you are in Christ, you are a new creation.

Mode

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3. *The outward element to be used in this ordinance is water, wherein the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

4. *Immersion, or dipping of the person in water, is necessary to the due administration of this ordinance. (Matt. 3:16; John 3:23)*

Baptizo – to plunge, dip, immerse, bathe, wash

Non-Christian literature: plunge, sink, drench, overwhelm, to sink the ship – to drown

Rhantizo - sprinkle

Heb 9:19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

Ekkeo – pour out

Act 2:17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Bruo – to pour

Jas 3:11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?

Scriptural Support

Mar 1:5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him **in the river Jordan**, confessing their sins.

Mar 1:10 And when **he came up out of the water**, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Joh 3:23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, **because water was plentiful there**, and people were coming and being baptized

Act 8:36-38 And as they were going along the road **they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"** (37) [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] (38) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both **went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.**

The trinity is to be represented in baptism

Mat 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Water is to be used – examples provided

Meaning

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- 1. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death and resurrection; of his being engrafted into him; of remission of sins; and of giving up into God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.*

A sign of fellowship with Christ – of giving up into God, through Jesus Christ – of being engrafted into him.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**.

What does it mean to put on Christ? Elements of Obedience and Trust

Obedience

Rom 13:14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Eph 4:22-24 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, (23) and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, (24) and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Mat 7:15-16 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in **sheep's clothing** but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (16) You will recognize them by their fruits.

Trust

2Co 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God**.

Of remission of sins:

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Eze 36:25-26 I will **sprinkle** (raino not baptizo) clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. (26) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Symbolism of union with Christ in his death and resurrection

Rom 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him **through faith** in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Next Time: Two important final questions:

- 1. Is baptism necessary for salvation?**
- 2. Who is Israel?**