

Class #7 - Baptism: What and Why?

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
~Matthew 28:18-20~*

Heritage Presbyterian Church is a Reformed church. This means that we have a covenantal view of baptism and administer it to households. Why?

I. Baptism: What is it?

Define some terms:

Sacrament:

Sign:

Seal:

A. The Sign of Baptism

1. Its Origin

2. **Its Necessity:** All Christian will agree it is necessary, though reasons will differ

3. Its Focus:

Question:

- 1) Is Christian baptism the believer's confession?
- 2) Is Christian baptism God's declaration?

B. The Meaning of Baptism into the Name

1. Father

2. Son

3. Holy Spirit

C. The Value of Baptism

1. Covenant Identity (the community of promise)

2. Covenant Promise (people):

What about Children?

1 Cor 7:14

Eph 1:1, 2:19-20, 6:1-3

Two Basic Examples

- 1)
- 2)

3. Call to Faith

II. Baptism: Why Do We Do It (and who gets to be baptized?)

A. A New Covenant Sign

B. Continuation of the Covenant of Grace – plan to save people by faith

C. A Sign for a Global Community

1. **Stats** – 9 scenes of Christian baptism in Acts
2. **The Global Sign** – perfect sign applied to any sort of person
 1. Pentecost – MEN – Ex 23:17, etc, 2:22 – grown, adult males
 2. 8:12-16 – Samaritans (men & **WOMEN**) & Simon (unbeliever)
 3. 8:36-38 – Eunuch – never full member in OT; complete citizen now!
 4. 9:18 (22:16) – Saul/Paul – significant because of who he was
 5. 10:47-48 – **Gentile**, Cornelius (household!)
 6. 16:15 – Lydia – woman, head of **household**, judged ME faithful, not us
 7. 16:33-34 – Jailor and his household – singular – He believed
 8. 18:8 – Crispus – again, household
 9. 19:5 – disciples of John, showing that John’s baptism is not Christian baptism

III. Baptism: Questions and Controversies

A. How Many Times?

B. How Much Water?

1. Immersion Only?
2. Buried with him in Baptism?

C. What Does it Do? Rightly administered...

Some Concluding Thoughts

Baptism is part of the gospel message/call–sign & seal of Covenant of Grace

Baptism is a sign of God’s faithfulness–will be God to us & children

Baptism is to be applied to households where one or more parents are believing (1 Cor 7:14!)

Baptism has a dual call – either need to be OR need to use for your spiritual good

Baptism is first and foremost about God and his faithful mercy