

Title: WSC Question 94: What is Baptism?

- I. The doctrine stated:
 - A. WSC Answer 94: Baptism is a Sacrament, Wherein the Washing with Water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.
 - B. WLC Answer 165: 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 Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.
 - C. WCF Chapter XXVIII.1: Baptism is a sacrament of the new testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible Church; but also to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in the newness of life. Which sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in His Church until the end of the world.
 - D. WCF Chapter XXVIII.2: The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water, wherewith the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by a minister of the Gospel, lawfully called thereunto.
 - E. WCF Chapter XXVIII.3: Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by pouring, or sprinkling water upon the person.

- II. The doctrine proved and explained.
 - A. MT 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
 - B. GAL 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 - C. COL 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. [10] And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: [11] In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: [12] Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
 - D. RO 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the

Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: [6] Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

- E. Baptism is to be performed by a Minister with water, either by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, in the Triune name of God.
 - F. Baptism sets you apart from the world as a member of Christ's visible church with all the duties and privileges that come with that.
 - G. Baptism signifies union with Christ and the blessings that flow from it especially the washing of Christ's blood and Spirit.
 - H. Baptism seals or ratifies the promises of God in the New Covenant.
 - I. Baptism is a sign of our engagement to be the Lord's alone and thus calls us to renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- III. The doctrine applied.
- A. Make sure that you possess the grace signified and sealed in baptism.
 - B. Live a life that demonstrates your engagement to be the Lord's.
 - C. Improve upon your baptism. WLC Answer 167: 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 others; 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 therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavouring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.

Conclusion: WSC Answer 94: Baptism is a Sacrament, Wherein the Washing with Water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's. "Let us labour to make a right use of our baptism. Let us use it as a shield against temptations....Let us use it as a spur to holiness....Let us use it as an argument to courage. We should be ready to confess that Holy Trinity, into whose name we were baptized." (Thomas Watson)