

# Baptism

## Baptism is Death

- I. **CCC 1213** Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.”
- II. **De Sacramentis, 2, 2, 6 - Saint Ambrose** See where you are baptized, see where Baptism comes from, if not from the cross of Christ, from his death. There is the whole mystery: he died for you. In him you are redeemed, in him you are saved.
- III. **Romans 5:12** Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men
- IV. **Romans 6:3-5, 7-11** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his...For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## Typology of Baptism in Creation

- I. **Genesis 1:2** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
  - a. God creates with his Spirit moving over water.
- II. **Genesis 1:3-5** And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
  - a. God creates through his Word.
  - b. **Isaiah 55:11** [S]o shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I intend, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
    - i. God’s Word is not ineffectual.
    - ii. What he says happens.
- III. **John 1:1-5** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
  - a. Begins the Gospel with the same words and themes as Genesis

- IV. **John 1:26-27** “I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”
- V. **John 1:29, 31, 33** “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!...for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel...he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’
  - a. Like Genesis – the Word and the Spirit and the water.
  - b. **Matthew 28:18-19** “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.”

**Born Again (or Born from Above) of Water and the Spirit**

- I. **John 3:1-3** Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- II. **John 3:4** “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”
  - a. Nicodemus understands Jesus naturally.
- III. **John 3:5** Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”
  - a. Jesus clarifies the supernatural meaning.
- IV. **John 3:6-13** “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can this be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Amen, Amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man.”
  - a. Jesus is witnessing to the heavenly realities of being born from above and asking Nicodemus to believe based on his testimony.
- V. **John 3:14-17** “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
  - a. The world is saved through the death of Jesus Christ.

- VI. **John 3:18-21** He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.
- VII. **John 3:22-23** After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea; there he remained with them and baptized. John [the Baptist] also was baptizing at Ae'non near Sa'lim, because there was much water there; and people came and were baptized.
  - a. Only time we see the disciples baptizing in all four gospels.
- VIII. **John 3:34-36** For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for it is not by measure that he gives the Spirit; the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.

### Necessity of Baptism

- I. Jesus says we need baptism to enter the Kingdom of God.
- II. If we do not obey Jesus, we will not see life.
- III. **CCC 1257** The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude...
  - a. **Galatians 2:20-21** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification were through the law, then Christ died to no purpose.
    - i. Justification takes place in baptism, which communicates Christ's death to us
  - b. **CCC 1257** *God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.*
  - c. **CCC 1260** Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of his Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved. It may be supposed that such persons would have desired Baptism explicitly if they had known its necessity.

### Baptism is Life

- I. We rise from baptism a new creation in Jesus Christ.
- II. We put off Adam and put on Christ and eternal life.
  - a. **Colossians 3:9-10**
  - b. **Ephesians 4:22-24**
  - c. **Galatians 3:27**
  - d. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

- III. **CCC 1262** [T]he two principal effects are purification from sins and new birth in the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Purification from sins
    - i. Original sin
    - ii. Personal sins (mortal and venial)
    - iii. Temporal punishments (consequences) of sin
    - iv. **CCC 978** [T]he forgiveness we received [in Baptism] was so full and complete that there remained in us absolutely nothing left to efface, neither original sin nor offenses committed by our own will, nor was there left any penalty to suffer in order to expiate them.
  - b. New birth in the Holy Spirit
    - i. Partakers of the divine nature, we become adopted children of God
    - ii. Receive the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity
    - iii. Receive the beginnings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
    - iv. Elevates our human efforts to follow the moral virtues
    - v. Incorporates us into the Church
    - vi. Allows us to participate in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Jesus Christ
    - vii. Grants us a bond of unity with other Christians
    - viii. Gives us an indelible spiritual mark

### **Baptism is Death and Everlasting Life**

- I. **John 10:17-18** “For this reason the Father loves me, I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”
  - a. The Father loves us as his children, because we lay down our lives in the death of his Son
- II. **Romans 5:10-11** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- III. **Ezekiel 36:24-27** For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.
- IV. **Hebrews 10:19-22** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.