



Adult Catechism Study | Session Five: Baptism

*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
Matthew 28:19*

Overview

LC: "The ship of Baptism never breaks, because (as we have said) it is God's ordinance and not our work. But it does happen, indeed, that we slip and fall out of the ship. Yet if anyone falls out, let him see to it that he swims up and clings to the ship until he comes into it again and lives in it, as he had done before." (431)

First: What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

LC: "Faith must have something that it believes, that is, of which it takes hold... So faith clings to the water and believes that in Baptism, there is pure salvation and life... It shall and must be something outward, so that it may be grasped by our senses and understood, and by them be brought into the heart." (426)

Second: What benefits does baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

LC: "There is no work done here by us, but a treasure, which God gives us and faith grasps. It is like the benefit of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, which is not a work, but a treasure included in the Word." (427)



Third: How can water do such great things? Where is this written?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us so generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5-8)

LC: “These two things are done in Baptism: the body – which can grasp nothing but the water – is sprinkled and, in addition, the Word is spoken for the soul to grasp.” (427)

Fourth: What does such baptizing in water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should dialy emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Matt. 28:19)

LC: “Baptism is still more glorious than whatever else God has commanded and ordained. It is, in short, so full of consolation and grace that heaven and earth cannot understand it.” (427)

Class notes/personal observations:

Next: Absolution