

## Baptism Test – the answers with explanations

- In the Lutheran Church, a Sacrament consists of
  - 1) the Word / a Promise / Forgiveness of sins,
  - 2) a command by Christ, and
  - 3) a visible tangible element like bread, wine, or water
  - Therefore, Baptism and Holy Communion are Sacraments
- Baptism is necessary for all people because all have sinned (Romans 3:23)
- Baptism is done in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- In baptism, water can be applied by pouring, immersing, or sprinkling
- The word “baptize”, βαπτίζω, means to apply water or to wash.
- The most important benefits of baptism are:
  - forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
  - which generates or strengthens faith, giving eternal salvation (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21)
  - uniting us with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13)
  - giving us victory over death and the devil (Romans 6:3-10)
  - and allowing us continually to look towards our baptisms for assurance, comfort, rebirth, regeneration, and renewal (Hebrews 10:22; Titus 3:5)
- Baptism is pure Gospel – the forgiveness of sins
- We should remind all Christians to “Remember your baptism”
  - If one cannot remember/confirm they were ever baptized, they should be baptized
- Baptisms are generally performed in the midst of the congregation because it allows them to welcome the baptized as the newest member of the body of Christ and encourages the congregation members to remember their own baptisms
- The primary tasks of baptismal sponsors are to teach the faith to the baptized throughout their lives, to pray for the baptized as long as they live, and to be a witness who can assure the baptized of their baptism. Baptismal sponsors are therefore good for anyone who is baptized, be they infants, children, or adults.
- Any baptism performed with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is a valid baptism – even if the baptized is deceiving the Pastor or if the baptism was performed by another denomination or if the baptism was performed in an emergency
- Arguments against baptizing infants are generally rooted in fundamental misunderstandings of the nature of sin, faith, and conversion.
  - We baptize infants to bring to them all the benefits enumerated above and because:
    - We are sinful from when we are conceived (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23)
    - Faith is not a work we do – it is a gift we have even when asleep or unconscious
    - Infants can be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15)
    - Little ones can believe in Christ (Matthew 18:6; Mark 10:14)
    - A loose connection can be made to circumcision (Colossians 2:11-12)