



Cleansed and Fed: The Sacramental Life God Has Poured His Love Upon Us

BAPTISM SANCTIFIES

“I don’t know what you were doing outside this afternoon, but you’re covered in dirt, and you have to be at work in half an hour! Go take a shower!”

What’s the dual purpose of washing?

Romans 3:23-24

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

What does it mean to be *justified*? _____.

John 17:17

[Jesus said,] Sanctify¹ them by the truth; your word is truth.

What does it mean to be *sanctified*? _____.

John 15:5

⁵ [Jesus said,] I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Evaluate: Once God gives you saving faith in Jesus, it’s up to you to put your faith into action and live a good life.

¹ Greek *hagiazō* (set apart for sacred use or make holy) – Footnote taken from NIV 1984

Who died on the cross and rose from the dead?

Acts 3:15

[Peter said,] “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.”

What does Jesus’ death and resurrection mean for us?

Romans 6:3-6

³Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin –

Underline key phrases above: what does it mean that you have died and risen with Jesus?

Baptism: Fourth (from Luther’s Small Catechism)

Baptism means that the old Adam (a.k.a. “old sinful nature”) in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Underline words in the paragraph above that strike you as especially vivid or “extreme.”

Why would Luther use such “extreme” language to discuss Baptism’s meaning in our daily life?

What’s *contrition*?

Colossians 2:12; 3:3

¹²[You have] been buried with him in baptism and raised with him...³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

In what sense is your Christian life *hidden* with Christ in God?

How does this truth help you deal with trouble in your life?

How does this truth teach you to look at your life of sanctification?

“My baptism helps me be a better person.” Explain.

Sing or say the following hymn stanza together:

Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.

*Johann J. Rambach (1693-1735)
Christian Worship, Hymn 294, s.1*

Saint and Sinner

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Evaluate: Nobody's perfect.

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Evaluate: Everybody has a little bit of good in them.

Romans 7:22-23

²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

What is life like for someone who is both a saint and a sinner at the same time?

What potential does this have for causing confusion?

Galatians 3:26-27

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

What part does your baptism play in settling any confusion about who you are and where you stand with God?

Evaluate: Living a godly life is like going on a diet. Just make a decision to cut down on sinful behavior. It's all about will power.

Sing or say the hymn stanza:

My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threatening clouds around I see.

Hymn 294, s.2

A Clean Conscience

Psalm 38:4

**My guilt has overwhelmed me
like a burden too heavy to bear.**

How can you tell if you have a guilty conscience? What are some symptoms to look for?

Matthew 5:6

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.**

Who is doing the filling in this verse? How does this filling happen?

What part does a clean conscience play in our life of sanctification?

“Should the cabin experience a change in pressure, oxygen masks will drop from above you. Those of you traveling with children should first place a mask over your own face and then help your children.”

Why put a mask over your own face before helping your children? What truth can you draw for your life of sanctification?

Sing or say the hymn stanza:

My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.

Hymn 294, s.3

Getting Dressed

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Confessing sin and trusting God for forgiveness are compared to changing out of old clothes and putting on new ones. The point of this comparison is:

- A. It's up to you to turn your life around each day.
- B. Getting rid of sin is as easy as getting dressed in the morning.
- C. People who own clothes that are clean and new will want to wear them.

What are some sources other than the Gospel where we sometimes turn to find motivation and power for godly living? How well do they work?

What makes Baptism unlike any of those other sources of motivation?

You know better than anyone else what's currently going on in your life. Jot down something about Baptism that you would like to take home and use.

Today's closing prayer... Sing or say this hymn stanza:

All that I am and love most dearly -
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.

Christian Worship, Hymn 294, s.4