

Old vs. New



Introduction

Opening Prayer: Dear God, you have redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature. I thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help me to regard my baptism as the robe of righteousness I am to wear all the days of my life, that I may be confident in my faith and able to deny temptation and strive to live more like Christ. Amen.

We were all baptized years ago—in your case, roughly a dozen years ago; in my case, longer than that. But Baptism is still important for both you and me. You will see why as you discover the answer to this question in today's lesson:

Lesson Aim: What does baptism mean for us every day of our lives?

Part One

Read Romans 5:13-6:14.

God forgives all of our sins. He has forgiven all of our sins of the past, and he will continue to forgive every sin we will commit in the future. God's forgiveness is not a license to sin as much as we want. Christian faith responds to God's love not with a desire to sin more, but to sin less.

- 1) When we are baptized, to what great event are we connected?
- 2) According to Romans 6:5-6, since we have been united with Christ, what does that mean for us in the future, and what does that mean for our sins now?
- 3) The last words in Romans 6:4 and the last words in Romans 6:6 tell us of some things that our baptism allows us to do. What do the last words of those verses say we are able to do?
- 4) Why is that something that is good for us to reminded of every day?
- 5) Therefore, what are we dead to and what are we alive to?
- 6) What does that mean? (vs. 12-14)

Through Baptism, you died and rose with Christ, that is, God gave you the desire to have nothing to do with sin anymore but to live a new life.

Read Galatians 5:17-23.

- 7) What does our sinful flesh always want?

There is an important point made in the middle of v. 17: Our sinful flesh and the Spirit that is in us by faith are in constant conflict with each other.

- 8) By faith we are able to deny and avoid the desires of our sinful flesh and produce fruits of our faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. What are the fruits of the Spirit?

Read Ephesian 4:22-24.

9) In baptism, we are set free from our sinful flesh, or as this passage describes it, the "old self". As baptized children of God, what are we daily to do with our old self?

10) What are we to put on in its place?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10.

11) Another word for godly sorrow is contrition. What naturally follows contrition?

12) Define repentance.

Contrition and repentance means really being sorry for your sins, even if you don't get caught.

Read Colossians 2:6-7

Since for most of us (perhaps each of us) it was in our baptisms that we came to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and since it was in our baptisms that we were brought to faith, we could read this passage as; So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in your baptism.

KEY POINT 1 - My baptism reminds me to put off the old, sinful way of living and to put on the new, holy way of living every day out of thanks to God for the forgiveness he has given to me by faith.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

It's been said that every Christian is a walking civil war. In a civil war, two parts or sections of the same country or two factions within a country fight each other to get control of the whole country. Inside the believer, two factions—the sinful nature and the new heart—are constantly battling to gain control of the whole being.

Read Romans 7:15-23.

Here the Apostle Paul describes his internal battle between the desires of his sinful flesh and the desires of his faith.

1) What does Paul say he wants to do?

2) What does he actually keep on doing?

3) When he does what he does not want to do, what is doing that?

4) Can you relate to the internal battle that Paul is talking about here?

Read Galatians 2:20.

5) We learned earlier that baptism unites us to Christ. So, because of our baptisms, what lives in us now instead of our old sinful flesh?

Read Philippians 4:8.

6) With Christ living in us by the faith of our baptism, what are some good things that we can strive for in our lives?

KEY POINT 2 - By bringing me to faith, God has given me a new heart that loves God's will and enables me to have holy desires. As a result of my having both a sinful nature and a new heart, constant battles go on in me between the two.

What I've learned so far:

Part Three

Study pages 315-319 and 227-234 in the Catechism and answer the following questions.

Our old sinful flesh that tempts and causes us to sin is sometimes called the "Old Adam." The Old Adam is the sinful part of us that existed before we were brought to saving faith. The new heart that God gives us through faith is sometimes called the "New Man." The New Man is the new person we have become by faith with the power to now deny sin and lead holy lives with holy desires.

- 1) Why do we have so many evil thoughts and desires?
- 2) Why do we also have some pure and holy thoughts and desires?
- 3) What is the result of having both evil and holy desires within us?
- 4) How can we fight this conflict?
- 5) What new desire does the Holy Spirit work through baptism?
- 6) What should your baptism remind you of every day?

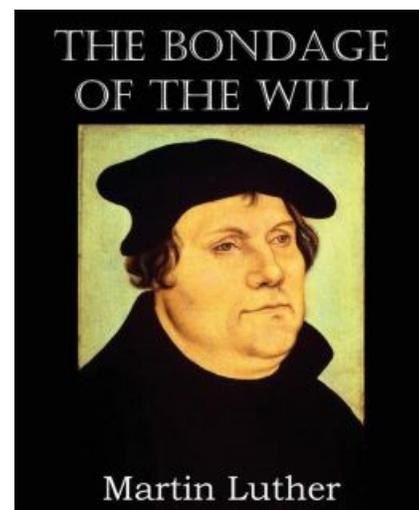
Helpful Passages

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

7) What compels us to live by faith and to live for Christ?

Matthew 3:8

8) We are told to produce fruits of faith in keeping with repentance. Give examples of what that might be like.



Main point—Baptism means that every day I can be confident in God’s promise to me that if I am baptized, I will be saved and have eternal life. And by this confidence of faith, God gives me the desire and ability to live to his glory free from sin.

Final considerations:

1) Agree or disagree:

It would be better to be baptized as an adult than as a child; that way it would be easier to remember your baptism.

2) The new man is _____

A. Jesus, who lived a perfect life and restored to us the image of God.

B. what we shall be when we are received into the kingdom of glory.

C. the new spiritual life in God’s image which the Holy Spirit creates in us when we are brought to faith.

3) True or False:

Our sinful flesh is called our “Old Adam” because we inherit it from Adam.

4) What is an example of impure water that cannot be used for baptism?

5) What is an example of invalid baptism?

Faith is a living,
busy, active,
mighty thing.



What I’ve learned about what baptism means to me every day:

Commit to Memory:

- The Meaning of Baptism for our Daily Life (with *What does baptizing with water mean?* and *Where is this written?*)
 - John 15:5
 - Galatians 2:20