



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

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### **BAPTISM SANCTIFIES**

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“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 (the negative and positive)?

Romans 3:23-24 -- <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> 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,] “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

What does it mean to be *sanctified*? \_\_\_\_\_.

John 15:5 -- <sup>5</sup> [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.

### **“Baptism Is Death” — What!?!?**

*Underline key phrases below about this: what does it mean that you have died and risen with Jesus?*

Romans 6:3-6 - <sup>3</sup>Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup>For 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 —

*So, what does it mean that you have died and risen with Jesus?*

*Underline words in the paragraph below that strike you as especially vivid.*

**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.

Why would Luther use such "extreme" language to discuss Baptism's meaning in our daily life?

Martin Luther's catechism builds off and explains the Romans 6 passage. It speaks of baptism as a death to sin and life to righteousness.

How does verbalizing these baptismal truths help your life of sanctification?

OR

"My baptism helps me be a better person." Explain.

*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 680, s.1*

## **Saint and Sinner**

**1 Peter 2:9 - 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 - 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.

*Both saint and a sinner. How does that play out? Take Paul's perspective in...*

**Romans 7:22-23 - <sup>22</sup>For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup>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.**

*So, how does it play out?*

**Galatians 3:26-27 - <sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>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.

*As the Holy Ghost... through the Word and holy Sacraments, has begun in us this His work of regeneration and renewal, it is certain that through the power of the Holy Ghost we can and should cooperate, although still in great weakness. But this... does not occur from our carnal natural powers, but from the new powers and gifts which the Holy Ghost has begun in us in conversion... this is to be understood in no other way than that the converted man does good to such an extent and so long as God by His Holy Spirit rules, guides, and leads him, and that as soon as God would withdraw His gracious hand from him, he could not for a moment persevere in obedience to God. But... [if any one would take the expression of St. Paul in this sense], that the converted man cooperates with the Holy Ghost in the manner as when two horses together draw a wagon, this could in no way be conceded without prejudice to the divine truth. (Formula of Concord-Solid Declaration, ¶65-66, 1917 translation)*

*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 680, 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?

**Hebrews 10:22 - Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

How do you set a guilty conscience at rest?

**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 680, s.3*

## **Getting Dressed**

**Ephesians 4:22-24**

**<sup>22</sup>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; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

Living the Christian life, sanctification, is compared to changing out of old clothes and putting on new ones. The point of this comparison is: [multiple choice]

- A. Getting rid of sin is as easy as getting dressed in the morning.
- B. It's up to you to get dressed in the morning (and to act like a Christian.)
- C. People who have clean, new clothes will wear them.

What makes Baptism a good source of motivation for sanctification?

*Our closing prayer:*

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 680, s.4*