









## SACRAMENTS

“Where... does that true faith come from? The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts by the preaching of the holy gospel, and confirms it through our use of the holy sacraments.”

Heidelberg Catechism

- Reformation churches understand “sacrament” as “means of grace”- not for salvation but growth
- God’s sacramental word always remains God’s primary means of grace
- The result of the Spirit’s work is a visible body (the church), not just the private experience of individuals

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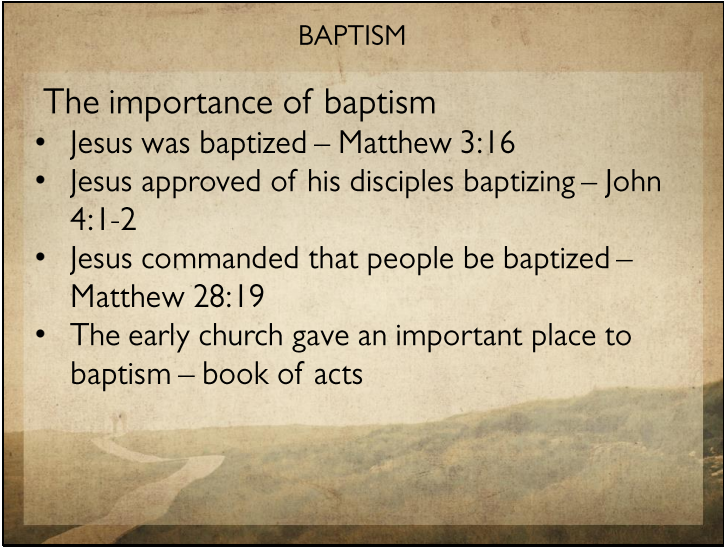
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BAPTISM

The importance of baptism

- Jesus was baptized – Matthew 3:16
- Jesus approved of his disciples baptizing – John 4:1-2
- Jesus commanded that people be baptized – Matthew 28:19
- The early church gave an important place to baptism – book of acts



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## Misunderstandings

Denominational confusion has pushed baptism from being a central practice of the church today

The meaning of Baptism is connected to salvation

- Baptism followed right after salvation

Baptism- necessary for salvation

- Jesus never required baptism

Sacrament or an Ordinance

- Salvation is Jesus plus nothing

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## What is Baptism?

Leviticus 14-17

Leviticus 17:15 - "Anyone, whether native-born or alien, who eats anything found dead or torn by wild animals must wash his clothes and **bathe with water**, and he will be ceremonially unclean till evening; then he will be clean.

Old Testament Purification

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# What is Baptism?



John's Baptism

Jewish Baptism

Old Testament Purification

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## What is Baptism?

Christian baptism includes the meaning of previous uses of baptism, while going even further.

Infant

Baptism

John's Baptism

Jewish Baptism

Old Testament Purification

Baptism with Confirmation

It is informed  
by the death  
and  
resurrection  
of Christ

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## Why Get Baptized? (and or confirmed)

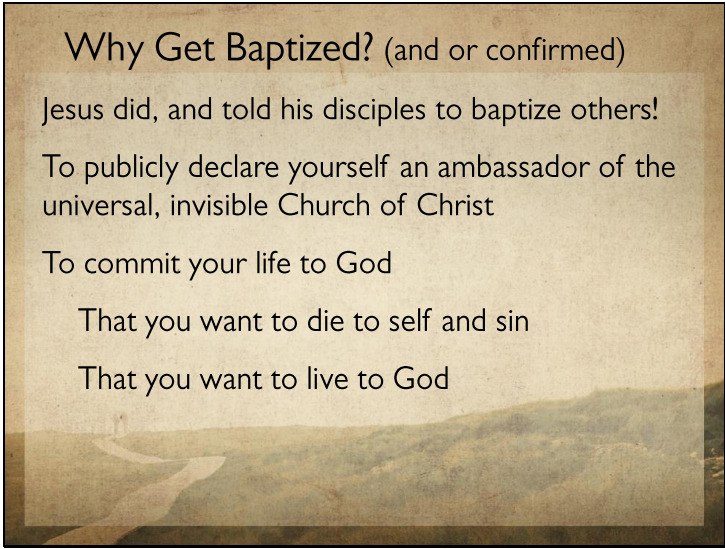
Jesus did, and told his disciples to baptize others!

To publicly declare yourself an ambassador of the universal, invisible Church of Christ

To commit your life to God

That you want to die to self and sin

That you want to live to God



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THE LORD'S SUPPER

- **Transubstantiation**– Roman Catholic view– The bread and wine become Jesus actual body and blood (John 6)
- **Consubstantiation**– Jesus presence is with the bread and wine
- **Spiritual presence**– Jesus is spiritually present in a special way when we take communion
- **Memorial view**– Communion is merely to remember what Jesus has done

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### THE LORD'S SUPPER- HISTORY

- Calvin affirmed the real presence of Christ in the *Supper*, but *through* the giving and receiving of the bread and wine rather than *in* them
- Christ gives himself in the bread and the wine, without being enclosed in these elements
- The Westminster Larger Catechism points out that the *mode* of the Supper, not the *substance*, is spiritual

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THE LORD’S SUPPER

- Should be taken with repentance so that we don’t bring judgement on ourselves (1 Cor 11:29)
- There is no express command in Scripture concerning frequency of Communion (should be left to the discretion of each congregation)
- One’s view of the efficacy of Communion largely determines one’s views concerning frequency
- If the Supper is a means appointed by Christ for strengthening our faith, then its celebration should be frequent

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