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Section: Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q111. What is baptism?**

Baptism is a holy, New Covenant ordinance from our Lord Jesus, whereby a professing believer in Jesus Christ testifies of his/her faith in Christ alone for salvation and his/her union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection by the public testimony of immersion in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is to be done once and in no way contributes to one’s salvation.

* **Baptism Is a Holy, New Covenant Ordinance**

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution. They are appointed by the Lord Jesus the only lawgiver and are to be continued in his church to the end of the age.”

* **From Our Lord Jesus**
* **Whereby a Professing Believer in Jesus Christ Testifies of His/Her Faith in Christ Alone for Salvation**
* **And Their Union with Christ’s Death, Burial, and Resurrection by the Public Testimony**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ. To those baptized it is a sign of their fellowship with him in his death and resurrection, of their being grafted into him, of remission of sins, and of submitting themselves to God through Jesus Christ to live and walk in newness of life.”

* **Of Immersion in Water**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “Immersion, or dipping of the person in water, is necessary for this ordinance to be administered properly.”

* **in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “The outward element to be used in this ordinance is water, in which the individual is to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

* **Baptism Is to Be Done Once and in No Way Contributes to One’s Salvation**

**1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

**Mark 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Romans 6:1-7** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

**1 John 4:7-10** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves *has been born of God* and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, *not that we have loved God but that he loved us* and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**Luke 23:39-43** One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

* **Credobaptism or Paedobaptism**

Paedobaptists believe that baptism was given to those who are a part of the new covenant *and to their children*.

Ultimately, their covenant theology views enforce their belief that children of believing parents should get at least one covenant sign, namely baptism. Their reasoning is since the Old Covenant included covenant signs for the kids, so does the New Covenant. **But Scripture nowhere teaches that.**

Instead, when you take a right understanding of the New Covenant people of God and add to it that fact that there are zero references to infant baptism, zero occurrences of infant baptism, and zero commandments on the New Covenant people to baptize infants, the clarity of Scripture rings through.

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “Those who personally profess repentance toward God and faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ are the only proper subjects of this ordinance.”

**Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

**Acts 16:14-15** One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

**Acts 16:31-34** And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them.

And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

**Acts 10:44-48** While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ...

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