

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 165. What is baptism?

A Baptism is a sacrament of the new testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,¹ to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself,² of remission of sins by his blood,³ and regeneration by his Spirit;⁴ of adoption,⁵ and resurrection unto everlasting life;⁶ and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church,⁷ and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.⁸

1. Matt. 28:19. 2. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3. 3. Mark 1:4; Rev. 1:5; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21. 4. Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26; Acts 2:38. 5. Gal. 3:26–27. 6. 1 Cor. 15:29; Rom. 6:5. 7. 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:41. 8. Rom. 6:4; Acts 2:38–42.

Q 166. Unto whom is baptism to be administered?

A Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, and so strangers from the covenant of promise, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him,¹ but infants descending from parents, either both, or but one of them, professing faith in Christ, and obedience to him, are in that respect within the covenant, and to be baptized.²

1. Acts 2:38–39, 41; Acts 8:12, 36, 38; Acts 16:15. 2. Col. 2:11–12; Acts 2:38–39; Rom. 4:11–12; 1 Cor. 7:14; Luke 18:15–16; Gen. 17:7–9; Gal. 3:9–14; Rom. 11:16.

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