

The Sign and Seal of Baptism

Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 26 & 27a
Matthew 28 (KJV)

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Introduction

1. When the sacrament was administered this morning, what were you thinking about?
2. More importantly, what was God doing in this place?

The Rich Symbolism...baptism is a picture of the washing away of sins.

1. The sacrament speaks to us about how sinful we are so that those who know the reality of what is pictured loathe and humble themselves before God.
2. What is this cleansing or washing that we need that is symbolized in baptism?
 - a. God has appointed water as the symbol of baptism.
 - b. Christ's shed blood washes away the guilt and punishment of my sin. Heidelberg Catechism – Answer 70
 - c. By the work of the Holy Spirit, God washes away the enslaving power of sin in my life.

The Wonderful Promise

1. How does Christ work through the sacrament of baptism?
 - a. The water of baptism has no efficacy to save or to work in us or our children.
 - b. Christ teaches and assures the elect through the sacrament of baptism.
2. In the formula found in Matthew 28:19 the Triune God promises His unconditional love.

The Resulting Call

1. We must not despise our baptism by living in ungodliness.
2. God calls us to live out the wondrous work of God in us.