

# Heidelberg Catechism

## Lord's Day 27

### Overview/Purpose

We continue to examine the sacrament of baptism in more depth as a continuance from Lord's Day 26. As discussed in questions 72 and 73, it is of importance to understand that baptism itself is merely a sign of what is spiritually received, the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins, and is not the actual act itself. Question 74 then discusses the topic of infant baptism as the New Covenant sign of God's promise to his children (Gen 17:7), replacing the Old Covenant sign of circumcision.

### Method

Following the Trivium, the grammar stage calls for rote memorization. Constant drilling and recitation is absolutely necessary and will require direct parental participation.

### Suggested Materials For Parents

See "The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism", pgs 364-376.

### Word Definitions

• Admitted	• Adult
• Assure	• Author of faith
• Baptism	• Baptism
• Baptized	• Blood
• Blood of Christ	• Blood of Jesus Christ
• Body	• Cause
• Children of unbelievers	• Christian Church
• Church of God	• Circumcision
• Cleanse	• Distinguished
• Divine pledge	• Especially
• External baptism	• Externally washed
• Filth	• Holy Ghost

• Included in the Covenant	• Infants
• Instituted	• Must
• New Covenant	• No less
• Old covenant	• Promised
• Purged away	• Really
• Redemption	• Removed
• Sign	• Sign of the covenant
• Sin	• Since
• Sins	• Speaks
• Spirit of Jesus Christ	• Spiritually cleansed
• Teach	• Testament
• Washing	• Washing Away of Sins
• Washing of Regeneration	• Water

### **Suggested Activities**

- Review word definitions
- Memory game to review word definitions and catechism questions
- Spelling test using the words in this catechism lesson
- Memorize key bible verses
- Service projects to reinforce the lessons found in the catechism questions
- Many opportunities for creativity!

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Question 72. Is then the external baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

**Answer.** Not at all: for the [a] blood of Jesus Christ only, and the Holy Ghost cleanse us from all [b] sin.

Question 73. Why then doth the Holy Ghost call baptism "the washing of regeneration," and "the washing away of sins"?

**Answer.** God speaks thus not without great cause, to-wit, not only thereby to teach us, that as the filth of the body is purged away by water, so our sins are [c] removed by the blood and Spirit of Jesus Christ; but especially that by [d] this divine pledge and sign he may assure us, that we are spiritually cleansed from our sins as really, as we are externally washed with water.

Question 74. Are infants also to be baptized?

**Answer.** Yes: for since they, as well as the adult, are included in the [e] covenant and [f] church of God; and since [g] redemption from sin by the blood of Christ, and the [h] Holy Ghost, the author of faith, is promised to them no less than to the adult; they must therefore by baptism, as a sign of the covenant, be also admitted into the christian church; and be distinguished [i] from the children of unbelievers as was done in the old covenant or testament by [j] circumcision, instead of which [k] baptism is instituted in the new covenant.

[a]: Mat. 3:11; 1Pet. 3:11

[b]: 1John 1:7; 1Cor. 6:11

[c]: Rev. 1:5; 1Cor 6:11

[d]: Mark 16:16; Gal. 3:27

[e]: Gen. 17:7; Acts 2:39

[f]: 1Cor. 7:14; Joel 2:16

[g]: Mat. 19:14

[h]: Luke 1:14,15; Psa. 22:10; Acts 2:39

[i]: Acts 10:47; 1Cor. 12:13; 1Cor 7:14

[j]: Gen. 17:14

[k]: Col. 2:11,12,13