

## CatClub: Question 44



**1. Recap:** This week we explore further the subject of the sacraments. We remember from last week that there are two sacraments (=special ceremonies established by Jesus), namely baptism and the Lord's Supper (=Holy Communion). We learnt that these sacraments are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as God's chosen covenant people by faith in his death and resurrection. This means that, by our use of the sacraments, the Holy Spirit guarantees that what is promised in the gospel\* can actually become a reality in a person's life. We also learnt that these two sacraments are the gospel made visible for us – they are designed, in other words, to help strengthen our weak faith.

**\*Remember:** the 'gospel' is the good news revealed in John chapter 3, verses 16-17: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

This week we consider in particular the meaning of baptism (sometimes called 'christening').

**Q44 asks:** What is baptism? **Answer:** **Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord (Christ) and to his church.**

**2. Investigation** - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 6, verses 3-4. As we saw last week, these verses talk about the reality to which baptism points and which God guarantees to bring to fruition in our lives. However this guarantee can only come into effect if we learn about and experience for ourselves the reality to which baptism points.

2. (In the New Testament) Matthew chapter 28, verse 19. Here we learn that Jesus himself, before he was taken back up to heaven after his resurrection, instructed his followers to baptise new believers.

### Additional Explanation

Just as in the Old Testament Hebrew boys were circumcised as a sign of their belonging to God's chosen people, Israel, so since Jesus' day both the sons and daughters of Christians (as well as adults who become Christians later in life and haven't been baptised as children) are baptised as a sign of their belonging to God's chosen covenant people, the Church.

>>>Next week's question: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

**This week's songs:** 1. 'Bless the Lord':

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE\\_IRI0E&list=RDQMDQyK73f8ov8&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E&list=RDQMDQyK73f8ov8&start_radio=1)

2. 'Bless this child:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLt45IIQoAk>

### **Romans 6:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> 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.**

### **Matthew 28:19**

**<sup>19</sup> 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,**