

Before answering the following questions, read the Belgic Confession, Article 34, and part of the Baptism Form (the first prayer and the three questions and answers).

A. The idea of baptism.

1. Water is a sign of external \_\_\_\_\_. Just as the body is washed by water in baptism, so certainly are we \_\_\_\_\_.

a. By this sacrament Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us that His sacrifice upon the cross is of real advantage to us.

b. Baptism is the sign and seal of our being united to Christ in His death and resurrection. Romans 6:12 is very important here. Read it.

1) Those that are baptized into Christ are baptized into \_\_\_\_\_.

2) But if we are with Christ in His death, we are also with Him in His \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Water baptism is only the sign. The reality towards which the sign points is the real baptism with the blood and Spirit of Christ.

1) To be washed by the blood of Christ implies \_\_\_\_\_.

2) To be washed by His Spirit implies \_\_\_\_\_.

3) Thus, as Romans 6 and Article 34 of the Belgic Confession also teach, baptism speaks not only of the forgiveness of sins, but also of being alive unto God in Christ, so that we are dead to sin, and yield ourselves unto God as those who are alive from the dead.

2. About midway through the 34<sup>th</sup> Article of the Belgic Confession, Christ is called "our Red Sea." The prayer that you read in the Baptism Form also speaks of the Red Sea.

a. The Red Sea was a type of \_\_\_\_\_. Pharaoh was a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_, and Canaan was a picture of heaven.

b. The child of God, therefore, must pass through \_\_\_\_\_ in order to escape the guilt of his sin and gain the promise of eternal life.

c. Another Old Testament picture or type of baptism is \_\_\_\_\_. (See I Peter 3.)

B. Practical considerations regarding baptism.

1. The sacrament of baptism is administered differently in various churches; some sprinkle with water and some have total immersion under water.

a. Give examples from the Bible where individuals were immersed in water.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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b. Give examples from the Bible where it is clear that sprinkling with water was used.

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c. Why is sprinkling sufficient? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Baptism is sometimes called the Sacrament of Incorporation into Christ, or the Sacrament of Entering into the Covenant.

a. According to the Belgic Confession, Article 34, what group of people believed it was necessary to be baptized over and over again? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Being baptized once is sufficient because \_\_\_\_\_

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3. When parents present their children for baptism, they are asked three questions in the presence of God and of the church. In your own words, state what it is that these questions are asking.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is baptism necessary? \_\_\_\_\_ In what way is it necessary? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Can a person be saved who is not baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What does the Roman Catholic Church believe on this point? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. We believe that elect children of God can be saved without being baptized, yet we believe that baptism is necessary because \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Baptism certainly implies a calling. There are always obligations in connection with the blessed privileges of the covenant. Since by baptism we are separated from all other people and strange religions, and since we wear baptism as a sign or ensign, our calling is: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Use your own words or see Question and Answer 70.)