

Baptism and Adoption

Galatians 3:27-29

Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): We fail to recognize the blessings of baptism

WLC 167 How is our baptism to be improved by us? A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.

Baptism declares us to be one with the church

- Though we are different, we become one
 - The church transcends racial differences, economic differences, gender and other differences
 - When we are baptized into Christ, we become part of something much bigger than us, something that transcends us

Baptism does not declare that no differences exist anymore

- “Egalitarians” say that this verse removes all distinctions, particularly as to role of women in the church and in the family
- But the Bible gives different directions to men and to women, to slaves and to free
- Differences in and of themselves are not bad things
- Baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit means that we are committed to pursuing the advance of the kingdom of God together

Baptism declares us to be one with Christ

- In union with Christ we receive justification
- In union with Christ we receive the rights and privileges of a child of God
- In union with Christ God’s riches become ours