

ALTERNATIVE FORM FOR THE ADMINISTERING OF BAPTISM TO BELIEVING ADULTS

Matt. 28 : 19
Acts 2 : 38, 41
Acts 8 : 36-37
Acts 10 : 47
Acts 16 : 14-15
Acts 16 : 31-33

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, the baptism of adults is administered in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus to his apostles, "Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." It is clear from this command that Christ closely associates the administering of baptism with the preaching of the Word of God. Children of believing parents should be baptized because they are incorporated in the covenant of grace. Concerning adults, however, the Word of God teaches that the sacrament is only to be administered to people who believe the truth of the Word of God, have made confession of sins and confess that they have been born again and believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Therefore you as adult may only be baptized if you are able to affirm that you are truly repentant of your sins and that you have with a sincere faith, accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

Questions and answers

In order to affirm publicly in the presence of the congregation that you believe in the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour, and that you wish to be baptized as a sign and seal of your incorporation as living member of Christ and His church, you must sincerely answer to the following questions:

Firstly, do you believe and confess that the Word of God, as revealed in the Old and the New Testament and avowed in the articles of the Christian faith and taught in this church, is the true and complete doctrine of salvation?

Secondly, do you acknowledge, on the basis of the Word of God, that you were born in sin, and are therefore subject to condemnation itself, but that you were saved by faith in Jesus Christ and therefore ought to be baptized as a member of His church?

Thirdly, do you declare that it is your heartfelt desire to crucify your old nature, to forsake the world and its evil lusts, to follow your Redeemer faithfully in prosperity and in adversity, and to love and serve Him with all your heart and all your strength?

Fourthly, do you promise that you will persevere in the fellowship of this Christian church, not only in the hearing of the Divine Word, but also in the use of the Holy Supper; that you will always lead a Christian life, submit willingly to the government and discipline of the church and participate in the building up of the body of Christ?

Answer: I do.

Prayer:

That we therefore may administer this holy sacrament of baptism to the glory of God and to our comfort and to the edification of the church, let us pray:

Merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You have forgiven us our sins through the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and incorporated us through the Holy Spirit, as members of Your only begotten Son, and so adopted us to be Your children. We thank You that You, by Holy Baptism, seal and confirm unto us the truth that we have been accepted into your covenant of grace. We beseech you that you will always so govern these brother(s) and sister(s) by Your Holy Spirit that they will constantly serve You in gratitude and with joy, persistently fight against the devil and all his forces, and overcome to the end, so that they will at the last appear before Your judgement seat with confidence and without fear, and thereafter praise, thank, worship, glorify and extol You eternally. Amen.

Administering of baptism

Then the minister of the Word shall say: N.N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The congregation shall then sing an appropriate hymn. (People who have answered to this form are not required to answer to the form for the public confession of faith.)