

All Those Who Belong to Him

Belgic Confession, Article 34

1. THE PROMISE OF BAPTISM: Baptism is about what _____ does for _____, more than about what we say to God.

a. The sacrament of baptism, like circumcision before it, is a sign and seal of God's covenant _____.

He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. (Romans 4:11)

...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)

b. The Belgic Confession emphasizes that baptism is a genuine means of grace that God uses to accomplish _____ spiritual realities.

Article 33: "by means of which God works in us" ... "So they are not empty and hollow signs"

c. When we properly distinguish but do not separate the sign (the water) and the thing signified (the work of God in us), we can (and must!) use _____ language without embarrassment.

...Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. (Acts 22:16)

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you... (1 Peter 3:21)

he saved us ... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)

2. THE OBLIGATIONS OF BAPTISM: Baptism shapes how we live by calling us to _____ God's promises by faith.

a. Baptism seals the promise that we are united to Christ, and therefore also promises and calls us to a transformed _____.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

b. All of this – including our response – is a gracious _____ of God in us.

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. (Romans 6:4)

3. THE BAPTIZED LIFE: Baptism both *promises* that you belong to God in Christ and by the Spirit; and *calls you* to say in _____ of life, "I belong to Christ."

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____ doldrums

e. Encourage one another with these words: _____ !