

Faithful to the Word of God – An Overview of Systematic Theology

A Video Series by Dr. R.C. Sproul

Introduction to Session 41, “Baptism”

Part 4 in a study of Ecclesiology, the study of the nature, function, and mission of the church

Preview

- Ecclesiology. From the Greek “ekklesia.” Those called out or chosen by God (Mat 16:18)
- The Sacraments are sacred and holy gifts (Latin *sacer*) that Christ has given to His church

Watch video

- The New Testament baptism instituted by Jesus is a sign and a symbol.
 - God gave other visible signs of His covenant promises, like the rainbow (Gen 9:8-15) or, most importantly, circumcision (Gen 17:1-10)
 - Under the New Covenant, baptism replaces circumcision as the outward sign of membership of inclusion in the family of God (Col 2:8-12)
- What does it mean?
 - It symbolizes our cleansing from sin (Acts 22:16; 1 Cor 6:11)
 - It is the sign that indicates all the benefits that we receive from Christ
 - Our regeneration, from spiritual death to spiritual life (John 3:5)
 - Our being baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
 - It indicates our participation in the death of Christ and in His resurrection (Rom 6:3-11)
- Those who baptize infants see a continuity between the Old Testament pattern of the sign being given to believers and their children.
 - Their position is that neither baptism nor circumcision confers the faith, but the promise of God to all who do believe
 - You don’t have the benefits until you have faith. But you can have the promise of God until then.
- The significance and the validity of baptism as a meaningful promise rests upon the character of God