

320. Why is Baptism necessary for the salvation of all men?

Baptism is necessary for the salvation of all men because Christ has said, 'Unless a man be born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.'

324. When should children be baptized?

Children should be baptized as soon as possible after birth. (a) Children should be baptized as soon as possible because Baptism is necessary for salvation. Infants who die without baptism of any kind do not suffer the punishments of those who die in mortal sin. They may enjoy a certain natural happiness, but they will not enjoy the supernatural happiness of salvation."

## 5. The Validity of the Ordinances/Sacraments

Three considerations bear on the question: What constitutes a valid ordinance/sacrament?: (a) the form and manner of administration; (b) the intention of the administrators and recipients; (c) the official standing of the administrator.

### a. The form and manner of administration

"(1) the words of the institution must be uttered during the administration of the ordinance, according to the direction of the Founder, . . . (2) it must be administered and received in the manner prescribed by the Founder; and (3) it must be administered only to those who already belong to the Church, or to those who desire to be received into it through the Sacrament. Finally, order requires that, except in extraordinary cases, it be administered only by regular ministers of the Church. When all these things are observed in this sacred act, according to the instruction of its Founder, then it is a Sacrament."

-- Heinrich Schmid, *The Doctrinal Theology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* p. 521.

### b. The intention of administrators and recipients

Under question 306, the *Baltimore Catechism No. 3* states:

"Although faith and sanctity of life should characterize the minister, they are not required for the valid administration of the sacraments. That the minister validly confer the sacraments it is necessary:

first, that he have the power of administering them;

second, that he perform all the essential ceremonies;

third, that he have jurisdiction for those sacraments which require it;

fourth, that he have the intention of at least 'doing what the Church does,' that is, of performing the sacred ceremony that is usual among Catholics."