

Discussion Questions

- What would it be like if God's call to sinners was *not* effectual (or effective)?
- Is God calling you into His kingdom? Will you respond to Him now?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When Jesus died in the place of sinners, He purchased redemption. But, it is the Holy Spirit who applies that redemption to individuals. Like applying a coat of paint, the Spirit puts all the benefits of redemption into operation in a person's life. How? By the effectual (or effective) call of God. That is, the Spirit produces faith and repentance in a sinner's heart and unites them to Christ. Have you ever seen a bench that was freshly painted? Maybe it used to be faded and gray but now it was a vibrant red. It might have looked wet. Perhaps it even had a sign on it that said "fresh paint" to warn people not to sit there. These were all indicators that a coat of red paint had been applied to the bench. When the Holy Spirit applies redemption in the life of a new believer, there are signs for that, too. You won't have the word "Christian" written across your back, but you will be marked by repentance and faith and a unity with Christ. The fruit of the spirit will add vibrancy to your life as you grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). These things can never *make* you a Christian, any more than a "wet paint" sign can *make* a bench red. But, they are faithful indicators that redemption has been applied.

Discussion Questions

- Has redemption been applied in your life, and if so... what indicators are there?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 21st, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #33

Q: How doth the spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A: *The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ, in our effectual calling.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Titus 3:5–6 [5] he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior... (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week’s catechism says that the Spirit applies redemption to us. Sometimes we use the word “apply” to mean physically putting something onto something else, like applying a layer of glue or a coat of paint. Applying the paint or glue in this way also puts it into effect so it can work. The idea of the Spirit *applying* redemption is used in that latter sense of “putting it into operation or effect.” In our discussions of redemption, we saw that Christ accomplished the work that the Father gave Him. Now, we are going to dive deeper into how the Holy Spirit applies that work to us. How does the Holy Spirit put the work of redemption into operation for a specific sinner? Our answer says that the Spirit 1) works faith in us, 2) unites us to Christ, and 3) that the application of it is in our effectual calling. Our good works are useless, so we need the Holy Spirit to apply redemption to us. Titus 3:5-6 says *he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...* The boys and girls catechism asks Q. What is a change of heart called? A. Regeneration. Q. Who can change a sinner’s heart? A. The Holy Spirit alone.

Discussion Question

- Why is it important that things (like glue or paint) be applied properly?
- What good is redemption if it is never applied?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Faith is sometimes defined as “belief,” but true Biblical faith is much more than head knowledge. It is the kind of belief that leads someone to abandon all human reliance and place absolute dependence on who God says He is, His actions toward us, and the promises that we find in His revealed Word to us. Hebrews 11:1 says *faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*. This kind of belief is not simply a rational conclusion based on data. We need to see things with spiritual eyes (God’s promises) and not just earthly eyes (our physical reality). Paul shares with us that we need to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith in Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, but we can’t just decide one day that we will have faith and start living righteously. This kind of life-changing faith is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-10). Guess who produces that faith in us? The Holy Spirit! John 16:8 says about the Spirit *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment*. Our salvation is **in** Christ alone, but let’s not forget that our salvation is also brought to us **by** the Spirit alone. Each member of the Trinity has a role in our salvation.

Discussion Questions

- Is it our responsibility to “convince” someone to believe in Jesus? Why or why not?
- Phil. 1:29 says even our faith has been “granted” to those who believe. Take a minute to thank God for this gift.

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

By producing faith in a new believer, the Spirit unites them to Christ. To *unite* means to bring two or more things together as though they were one. When we sing together in a choir, we are united and sing as one voice. When men and women are married, they are united as if one flesh (Gen 2:24). In a similar way, the Holy Spirit unites us with Christ, not in flesh but in spirit. Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 6:17 *But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him*. After this joining, God promises that it will last forever and never be undone (Hosea 2:19). Spiritual unity in the Bible is spoken of pretty highly. Ephesians 4:4–6 *There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all*. Romans 6 talks about baptism as a picture of how the Holy Spirit unites us with Christ in a death like his and gives us newness of life. This week’s memory verse states that salvation comes by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. Because of the work of the Holy Spirit, a Christian’s life is inseparably tied to Christ. This uniting results in a progressive sanctification that continually conforms us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). The promise of Christ is *Because I live, you also will live* (John 14:19).

Discussion Questions

- How does being united with Christ affect how God sees us?
- In what ways does the Holy Spirit continue to make us more like Christ over time?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The last part of this week’s answer talks about our effectual calling. *Effectual* is an older word that means “able to produce a desired effect.” We might also use the word *effective*. If you were to try to hammer a nail into a board using only a piece of paper, it probably wouldn’t work. It would not be effective. A proper hammer, on the other hand, would be effective. My wife, Jennifer, often needed to get the kids to come back inside after playing, but we found that calling from the back door was not very effective. We got a bell that was loud and high pitched... now *that* was effective. Spiritually speaking, our effectual call is one that is “effective,” but who is doing the calling and what are we called to do? Chapter 10 of the 1689 explains this in more detail, but basically it is God who calls sinners to repent and believe in His son Jesus Christ. By His almighty power, God effectually draws believers to Jesus Christ. We will cover this in more depth next week. When God calls us to salvation, we respond and come running into His loving arms. 1 Corinthians 1:9 says *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*. This call is of God’s grace alone and through the Holy Spirit, God enables us to answer this call. This is all done to God’s glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:12 *who calls you into his own kingdom and glory*.