

### Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things have you been loyal to in this life?
- Why does God “alone” deserve all glory?

### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

To whom is baptism to be administered? A proper candidate for baptism is anyone who actually professes repentance towards God, faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other. This means that churches ought not to put extra barriers to baptism (age, class, etc.) but welcome any who have been truly saved. On the other hand, our answer also says “and to none other.” That means the church ought to do due diligence in ensuring baptism is not administered to those who have not been truly saved. We cannot know someone’s heart, but God has given us evidences of true conversion such as repentance and fruit of the Spirit. God is the one who saves people, transforming their hearts and granting them faith and repentance in Christ. By baptizing those who give a credible profession of faith, the hope is to identify and welcome into the church all those (and only those) whom God has graciously saved. Matthew 28:18–20 *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Baptism was given to the church as an ordinance?
- Do you need to repent, confess and believe in Christ alone? If you are a true believer would you share your story of repentance and faith with those around you now?

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## **West Oaks Baptist Church**

(in preparation for Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025)

### **Baptist Catechism Question #98**

**Q:** To whom is baptism to be administered?

**A:** *Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other.*

### **Suggested Memory Verse**

*Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (ESV)*

## Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Who should be baptized? If you don't look to the Bible as your sole authority on this question, you can come up with a lot of different answers. There were some people in the 1800s who saw water baptism as obsolete, as only a Jewish rite and in New Testament times. They believed the only thing still relevant today was spirit-baptism and so, no one should be physically baptized. This idea fails to deal with the fact that the New Testament instructions include physical, human administrators as well as recipients and that the ordinance was given to the church for obedience until the return of Jesus. Another false idea is that baptism need not be after a credible profession of faith only. Rather, many groups will baptize babies or infants and will generally sprinkle instead of immersing into water. Roman Catholics and others would teach baptismal regeneration, the idea that baptism is what saves you and not faith alone in Jesus Christ. Oneness Pentecostals teach that people should be baptized in one name only (the name of Jesus), not the trinity. Some cults, such as Jehovah Witnesses or Mormons, will baptize in the name of a false Jesus and/or a false gospel. Even within orthodox Christianity, we can baptize wrongly. Many have been baptized to fit in, or to please their parents, but not in faith or repentance. People have also been baptized to meet membership requirements, but again, not in faith or repentance. So, we begin to see how important it is to answer this question biblically. To whom is baptism to be administered?

### Discussion Questions

- How important is what you think baptism is and who it is for? Why does it matter?

## Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Where most people go wrong with this question is the first part of the answer: that baptism should be administered to those who actually profess repentance towards God. Do you see that the key element of repentance was missing in the false beliefs about baptism we looked at yesterday? If baptism is obsolete, you don't need to repent. How can infants repent and confess? In the case of false gods or gospels, there is no repentance to anything real. True repentance is a turning away from sin and towards Christ to embrace the gospel. Instead of rejecting Jesus Christ, repentance leads to placing your faith in Him. Paul preaches the gospel in Acts, and part of his message to others is... *that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance* (Acts 26:20). John the Baptist taught the same thing in Matthew 3:8 *Bear fruit in keeping with repentance*. This turning from sin and changing your mind about sin always leads to action. Zaccheus was a tax collector who stole too much money from everyone and lived a good life (in his own eyes) until one day he was drawn to Jesus, climbed a tree to get a good look at Him, and was saved from his sin. What is his response? Luke 19:8 *And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."* This response was evidence that true repentance had taken place and that he was truly saved. A person who has true repentance toward God is a professing believer that wants to be obedient and is a proper candidate for baptism.

### Discussion Questions

- How do someone's actions help us see what is in their heart?
- Why do you think repentance and baptism are tied so closely together in scripture?

## Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Another key element and evidence of a truly saved person that should be baptized is that they have professed faith alone in Jesus Christ. Their faith is not in themselves, their money, their status or job, not in their fame but only in Jesus Christ. To have faith in Christ alone speaks of believing that Jesus is real, that He came to earth as a baby, lived a sinless perfect life so that he could pay the price for our sin by dying on the cross and shedding His blood. This righteousness of God is given to those who have faith and believe. Romans 3:22 *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe*. Just like repentance, this true faith in Christ should lead to action that shows obedience to Christ. If your life has been changed by the mercy and grace of God you are a new creature with new abilities and even a new desire to obey. Have you ever stopped to consider John 3:16 in closer detail? John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*. It is God who first loved us, was willing to send his only son Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, that whoever believes or places their trust in Jesus won't die and go to hell but live eternally with God as His child. This kind of faith and obedience to Christ makes someone a proper candidate for baptism.

### Discussion Questions

- -Baptism is a picture of our union with Christ. Why would it not be appropriate to baptize someone whose faith is not in Christ alone?

## Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever seen in books or movies where a knight kneels and swears allegiance to the king he serves? There must be no other king or kingdom vying for his loyalty. With baptism, too, we see that there must be a singularity to our devotion to Christ. Revelation 19:16 *On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords*. There is no other who can be called King of Kings. Jesus is our only great high priest. Hebrews 4:14 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession*. There is no other who has passed through the heavens. Jesus is our only redeemer. Galatians 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"* He is our only mediator. 1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*. The world would assign these roles to others such as Mary as the co-mediator instead of Jesus alone, but there is only one God and to Him alone belong the glory, honor, and praise as our Creator. Isaiah 42:8 *I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Our faith and obedience can never be to anyone or anything else as proper candidates for baptism*.