

and renewed in spirit by the Holy Spirit. Here, He gives infants and children faith through the water and the Word by the Spirit of God. In Baptism, our children are justified, declared righteous, by His grace. They receive the hope of eternal life.

Peter tells us,

**Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

(1 PETER 3:21)

Baptism saves you and your children because it gives you a clear conscience before God. The power of Jesus' resurrection in Baptism moves us from being in the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His light. (See Colossians 1:13.)

## Does Scripture Really Say These Things Apply to Children?

How do you know that these promises are for your children?

**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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."**

(ACT 2:38-39)

Jesus commands us to make disciples of *all nations*—this includes infants and children. (See Matthew 28:19-20.) And whole households were

baptized when the head of the house came to faith in the Book of Acts. (See Acts 11:14-18; 16:15, 34; 18:8.)

## What Do I Do Now?

*What should I do if I want to get baptized, and how do I get my children baptized?* You should speak with the pastor of this church. Adults are normally instructed in the faith first, then baptized, while infants and small children are baptized first and then instructed in the faith as they are able. You will also want to continue in learning more about this faith in Christ after being baptized.



## CONCORDIA TRACTS

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# Why Baptize Your Child?



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## Why Baptize Your Child?

The majority of Christians in the world baptize their children, usually as infants. But why baptize your children?

### Jesus Wants Your Children to Be Brought to Him

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Jesus wants you to bring the little children to Him. The word in the original Greek includes especially infants. Jesus wants to give the kingdom of heaven to your children. Jesus admits them to the Kingdom when He blesses them in Baptism. Baptism is not something we do to ourselves. It is a divine rite that Jesus performs through the Church. When the Church baptizes, it is bringing those baptized to Jesus.

Baptism was a part of Jesus’ earthly ministry. John states,

**The Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself did not baptize, but only His disciples).**

(JOHN 4:1–2)

When the disciples baptized, it was the same as if Jesus was baptizing. The Church does it with the authority of Jesus Christ. (See Matthew 28:19–20.)

### Baptized into Christ

When we baptize, we baptize people into Christ Jesus.

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Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been united with him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

(ROMANS 6:3–5)

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

(GALATIANS 3:27)

There are numerous attributes and benefits spoken of in St. Paul’s writings of those who are in Christ. These things are all made ours—and your children’s—when we are baptized into Christ Jesus.

### Benefits of Your Children Being Baptized

What are the benefits for children who are baptized?

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

(JOHN 3:3)

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That

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which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

(JOHN 3:5–6)

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

(JOHN 1:12–13)

In Baptism, God makes us born again, born from above, and makes us His children. Jesus makes us children of God in Baptism. He makes us heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ of His kingdom, life, and light. (See Romans 8:16–17; Galatians 3:29; Titus 3:7)

Paul writes concerning Baptism,

**But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 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, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

(TITUS 3:4–7)

The Baptism of children shows the grace of God to us all the more. Before infants begin doing anything, they are saved in Baptism according to God’s grace. In Baptism, they are washed of original sin. Here, He saves them according to His mercy. Here, they are regenerated (born again, born from above)