

SACRAMENTAL LIVING

Matthew 28:16-20 (p. 1550)

September 23, 2018

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing . . . and teaching
Matthew 28:19-20*

The Go Principle, Pt. 2

*So, wherever you find yourself, make disciples
Matthew 28:20 (Pastor Fakkema's translation)*

It's about bringing Jesus

*When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said,
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations"
Matthew 28:17-19*

Don't forget about the teaching

*. . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
Matthew 18:17*

Baptism 101

*... baptizing them in [or better, "into"] the name
of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19b*

→ see Heidelberg Catechism #59-70 on faith and the sacraments (Acts 2:38; Acts 16:31-32)

What we say about baptism:

- 1) Baptism is first about connection to Jesus

- 2) Baptism is a gift to the Church

- 3) Baptism is always connected to a profession of faith

- 4) Baptism is for believers and their children

Jesus' final word

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:20*

- 1) Sacraments connect to JESUS

- 2) I AM the most important sacrament

For further study of Matthew 28

Start with the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 25-27, a discussion of faith and sacraments. The Scripture passages in these catechism questions will keep you busy all week! Available at

<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

Belgic Confession, Articles 28-29, available online at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

Calvin Seminary's *Forum* which features church discipline in its Summer 2018 edition (Volume 26, Number 1). It isn't online yet (<http://www.calvinseminary.edu/ministry-connections/publications/forum-archive/>), but it is available at church!

Login Duncan's sermons on church and faith at <https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/the-kingdom-principle-the-least-is-the-greatest-part-4-discipling-the-brethren>

Bob Deffinbaugh has four sermons on Matthew 28 at <https://bible.org/series/studies-gospel-matthew>

F. F. Bruce's study of the Great Commission at https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1st-gospel_bruce.pdf

Gordon Smith's lecture at <https://www.regentaudio.com/products/catechesis-for-a-secular-age-the-wisdom-of-1-peter>

Bob Utely's commentary on Matthew at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/matthew>

Alexander Maclaren's commentary at <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mac/matthew.html>. Even though Maclaren doesn't cover Matthew 28, his introduction helpful if older.

John Piper's sermons and articles on Matthew 28 at <https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/matthew/28/messages>

**Belgic Confession, Article 29:
The Marks of the True Church**

We believe that we ought to discern diligently and very carefully,
by the Word of God, what is the true church—

for all sects in the world today claim for themselves the name of “the church”

The true church can be recognized if it has the following marks:

The church engages in the pure preaching of the gospel;
it makes use of the pure administration of the sacraments
as Christ instituted them;
it practices church discipline for correcting faults.

In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it
and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head.

By these marks one can be assured of recognizing the true church—and no one ought to be separated from it.

As for those who can belong to the church, we can recognize them by the distinguishing marks of Christians:
namely by faith,

and by their fleeing from sin and pursuing righteousness,
once they have received the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ.

They love the true God and their neighbors, without turning to the right or left, and they crucify the flesh and its
works.

Though great weakness remains in them, they fight against it by the Spirit all the days of their lives, appealing
constantly to the blood, suffering, death, and obedience of the Lord Jesus, in whom they have forgiveness of
their sins, through faith in him.

As for the false church, it assigns more authority to itself and its ordinances than to the Word of God;

it does not want to subject itself to the yoke of Christ;

it does not administer the sacraments

as Christ commanded in his Word;

it rather adds to them or subtracts from them as it pleases;

it bases itself on humans, more than on Jesus Christ;

it persecutes those who live holy lives according to the Word of God

and who rebuke it for its faults, greed, and idolatry.

These two churches are easy to recognize

and thus to distinguish from each other.