

Words TO LIVE BY

Part 1: “Baptism”

Baptism is how we dedicate ourselves to God after being newly created through Christ.

~ *Justin Martyr, Early Christian Leader*

True believers when troubled by sin can always remember their baptism, and so be assured of eternal washing in the blood of Christ.

~ *John Calvin, Institutes*

Baptism signifies that the old Adam in us is to be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance.

~ *Martin Luther, Reformer*

Baptism is the sign of initiation by which we are admitted into the fellowship of the church.

~ *John Calvin, Institutes*

But whether the person being baptized should be wholly immersed, or whether he should only be sprinkled with poured water – these details are of no importance. Yet the word “baptize” means to immerse, and it is clear that the rite of immersion was observed in the ancient church.

~ *John Calvin, Institutes*

Infants unless regenerated unto God through the grace of baptism whether their parents be Christian or infidel are born to eternal misery and perdition.

~ *19th Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church the Trent Catechism, 1544 CE*

We have not a single command in the Scriptures that infants are baptized, or that the apostles practiced it. Therefore we confess with good sense that infant baptism is nothing but human invention.

~ *Menno Simons, Founder of the Mennonites*

If baptism is a symbol of our commitment to Christ, like a wedding or engagement ring, then placing one on the finger of an infant wouldn't make sense – unless you practice arranged marriages.

~ *The Meeting House Manifesto*

“John the Baptist was symbolically re-enacting what happened when the children of Israel came through the River Jordan and into the Promised Land. This is an Exodus-symbol. It is all about salvation, rescue, liberty, the new start that the people had longed for.”

~ *N.T. Wright, Historian & Theologian*

The baptism of believers is a public witness that they have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and are becoming part of the community of faith. We believe that baptism by immersion symbolizes the believer's submission to Jesus Christ and identification with His death and resurrection.

~ *Articles of Faith and Doctrine of the Brethren in Christ Church (North America)*

“Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”

~ *Psalms 51:7 (NLT)*