

LESSON 03: HOLY BAPTISM – FOR CHILDREN TOO!

Memory work

73. Q. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

<p><i>A. God speaks in this way for a good reason. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ remove our sins just as water takes away dirt from the body. But, even more important, He wants to assure us by this divine pledge and sign that we are as truly cleansed from our sins spiritually as we are bodily washed with water.</i></p>	<p><i>God wants to teach us that Christ's blood and Spirit remove our sins just like water removes dirt from our body. Even more important, God wants to assure us that our sins are truly gone.</i></p>
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74. Q. Should infants, too, be baptized?

<p><i>A. Yes. Infants as well as adults belong to God's covenant and congregation. Through Christ's blood the redemption from sin and the Holy Spirit, who works faith, are promised to them no less than to adults. Therefore, by baptism, as sign of the covenant, they must be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the old covenant by circumcision, in place of which baptism was instituted in the new covenant.</i></p>	<p><i>Yes. Infants also belong to the church; they too are promised forgiveness and renewal. Baptism is the sign of this, it distinguishes children of believers from children of unbelievers. Circumcision used to be the sign for this, baptism is now.</i></p>
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Homework

One of the arguments against infant baptism is that infants do not have faith. This argument is supported by pointing to Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 10:17

1.(3) Why would some think these texts indicate infants are not saved? _____

2.(4) Reformed people don't buy this argument. Why not? Why don't these texts forbid infant baptism?

One more question on the other side of this page

Name: _____

3.(3) If someone believes children are not allowed to be baptized as a sign and seal of being God's child, what might they logically believe concerning children who die before they profess their faith and are baptized? *(Maybe your parents or someone else can help you with this question.)*
