

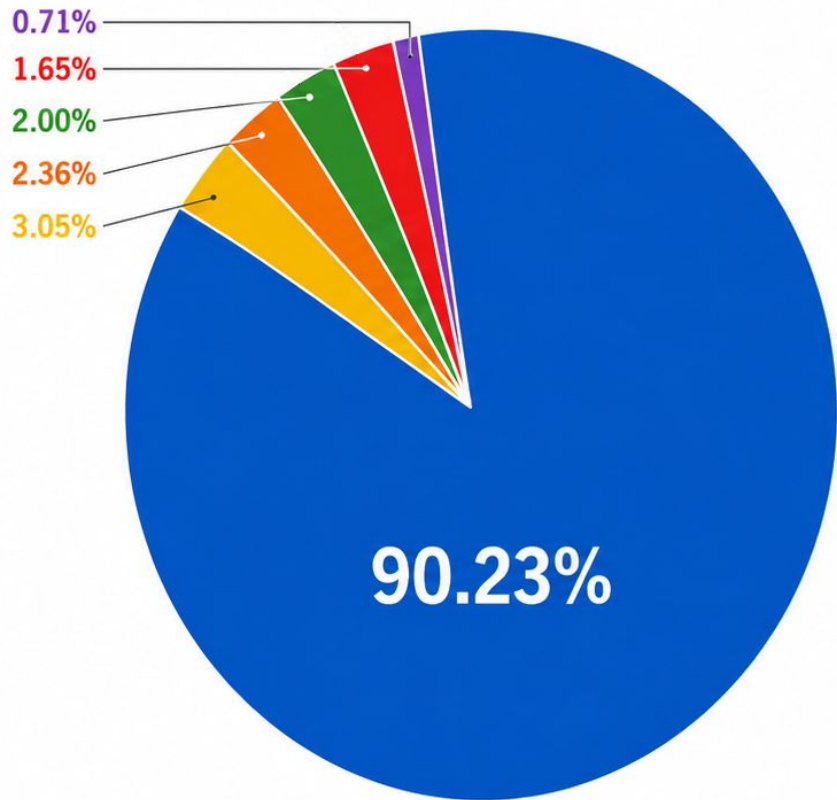
Baptism Series III:
Answering Paedobaptist Arguments

Infant Baptism Churches in Massachusetts

Combined Breakdown by Broad Group



This entire pie chart represents 91.02% of classified Massachusetts Christians
2,768,079 adherents; 39.38% of the total Massachusetts population.



1. Catholic — 90.23%

Included denominations:

- Catholic Church
- Ecumenical Catholic Communion

2. Covenantal infant baptism churches — 3.05%

This category has two parts:

■ Congregational — 92.84%

Included denominations:

- United Church of Christ
- Conservative Congregational Christian Conference
- National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
- Congregational Christian Churches, Additional (not part of any national CCC body)

■ Presbyterian / Reformed — 7.16%

Included denominations:

- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Christian Reformed Church in North America
- Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
- Reformed Church in America
- Cumberland Presbyterian Church

3. Anglican / Episcopal — 2.36%

Included denominations:

- Episcopal Church

4. Orthodox — 2.00%

Included denominations:

- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- Armenian Apostolic Church (Etchmiadzin)
- Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
- Coptic Orthodox Church
- Armenian Apostolic Church (Cilicia)
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church
- Serbian Orthodox Church
- Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas
- Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of America
- Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
- Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese
- Syrian (Syriac) Orthodox Church of Antioch
- Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- Holy Orthodox Church in North America
- Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America
- Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Syrian Church
- Eritrean Orthodox Church
- Kannada Archdiocese of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch
- Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America

5. Methodist — 1.65%

Included denominations:

- United Methodist Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

6. Lutheran — 0.71%

Included denominations:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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***Some Paedobaptists** (Presbyterians, Congregationalists)
practice an infant baptism which views baptism as a covenant
sign that marks the children of believers as belonging to God's
visible people, to be later personally embraced by faith.

& while Paedobaptists often emphasize **baptism-** an important aspect of God's word

“The sum of your word is truth.”

Psalm 119:160

A Cause for Confidence:

1. Every passage that overtly says what baptism does says that baptism saves.
2. Every passage that overtly says that baptism saves ties this salvation to the participant's faith, active amidst baptism.



Faith → Baptism → Salvation

	<i>Mark 16:16</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>	<i>Galatians 3:26-27</i>
FAITH	"The one who has believed	"Repent	"Through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus
BAPTISM	and has been baptized	and be baptized	For those of you who were baptized into Christ
SALVATION	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."	have been clothed with Christ."

The Godward faith through which God works in baptism

	<i>Acts 22:16</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>	<i>Colossians 2:12</i>	<i>Romans 6:4-17</i>
THE LOCATION	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
THE RESULT	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
THE HEART'S ORIENTATION	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15


Answering Paedobaptist Arguments

Catechism of the Catholic Church,

Section 2, Article 1:IV: The Baptism of infants

The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church.

There is explicit testimony to this practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that, from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole "households" received baptism, infants may also have been baptized.

 **ROYvonne** @R_O_Yvonne · Jun 9

When whole households were baptized, you think they excluded their kids, dingus?

🗨️ ↻️ ❤️ 📊 32 📌 🔗

 **Blue-Collar Bibl...** @bluco... · Jun 11

Bro doesn't think "households" includes babies, crazy!

🗨️ ↻️ ❤️ 📊 7 📌 🔗

 **Zamster** @ZamsterCrypto · Jun 11

"... and their household"

I'm sure they had no children in their household 🤔

 **Aita...** @Aita... · Jun 10


I guess babies aren't part of households.

🗨️ 1 ↻️ ❤️ 📊 18 📌 🔗

 **Candle's Wit...** @Candles... · Jun 9

Acts 16:33 whole household was baptized. And it did not say "besides the babies"

🗨️ 2 ↻️ ❤️ 5 📊 186 📌 🔗

 **ROYvonne** @R_O_Yvonne · Jun 11

When whole households were baptized, are you so slow that babies wouldn't be included in that?

ROYvonne @R_O_Yvonne · Jun 9
When whole households were baptized, you think they e


... in the Area @Auita... · Jun 10
... baptizing great part of households.


Hans Fiene  
@HansFiene

Follow

Nations and households normally include children. Why would the Scriptures use these terms without qualification if they weren't including children?

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Bro doesn't crazy!

Zamster 
" ... and their

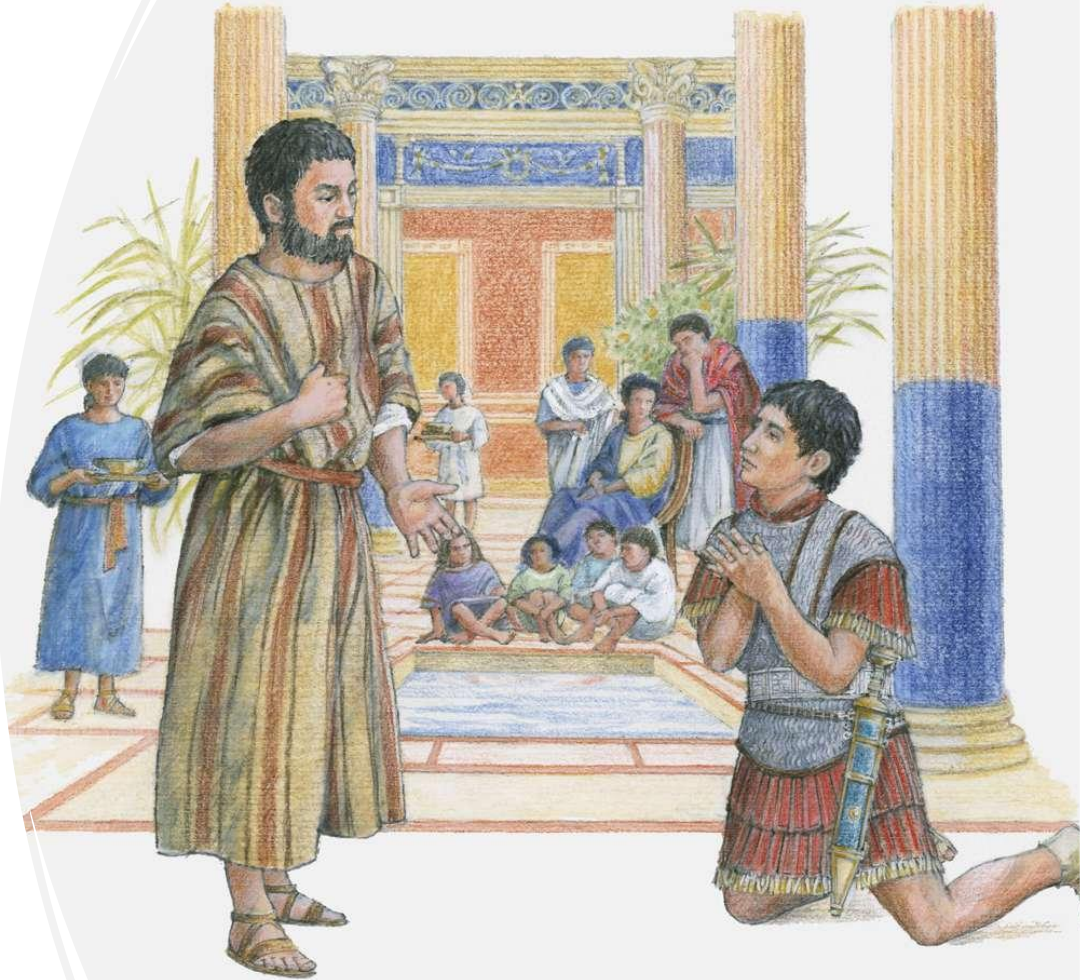
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18
186
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Objection: “The Household Principle”

Paedobaptists believe that the faith of the head of a household is sufficient for the inclusion of the entire family in baptism.



The "Household" Baptisms

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Lydia's Household - Acts 16:15

“She and her household had been **baptized**.”

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***Crispus' Household* — Acts 18:8:**

"Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, along with his whole household. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized."

Lydia's Household - Acts 16:14-15

“The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Now when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.’”

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This is *narrative compression*:

Luke skips the middle and reports the household baptism as an accomplished fact.

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You don't argue from the “missing middle” of a compressed narrative.

- 1 of the 5 Households mentioned is part of a compressed narrative; We do not know anything about the skipped middle part of the narrative pertaining to Paul's visit to Lydia's household & what was done in that time. The missing middle is more likely in harmony with the 4 other accounts which all do not imply infant baptism.
- 3 of the 5 accounts specify that every member or each household *individually* heard the preached gospel → believed it prior to baptism. "The Household Principle" is contrary to the Biblical pattern.
- 0 of the 5 accounts *mention infants*; Paedobaptists write infants into the text *contrary* to the evidence.

Retort: “But a household *may* include an infant.”

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Rebuttal:

“and so may the crowds in a Samaritan City”

“Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. **The crowds** were all paying attention to what Philip said, as they listened and saw the signs he was performing...

When they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **both men and women were baptized.**”

- Acts 8:5-6,12

The *Personal Faith* Principle

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Romans 10:13-14:

"Everyone who **calls on the name** of the Lord will be saved.
How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in?
And how can they believe without hearing about him?
And how can they hear without a preacher?"

Objection: “The Promise for your children”

Acts 2:38

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BAPTISM	and be baptized
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Acts 2:39

"For the promise
is for you and for your children,
and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God <i>will call.</i> "

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"Your little ones and your
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**Deut
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Infant *Ignorance* of Good & Evil

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**Deut
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13:32-33**

"He called you
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**2 Thes
2:14**

Who was baptized that day?

	<i>Acts 2:38</i>	<i>Acts 2:41</i>
FAITH	"Repent	"So those who accepted his message
BAPTISM	and be baptized	were baptized,
SALVATION	for the forgiveness of your sins."	and that day about three thousand people were added to them."

Original Sin

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Paedobaptists believe that original sin is the condition inherited from Adam by which all people are born subject to condemnation and in need of redemption before ever committing personal sin.

Romans 5:12-13:

"Through one man sin entered the world, and **death through sin**,
and thus death spread to all men, because all **sinned**—

(For until the law sin was in the world,

but sin is not imputed when there is no law.)"

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“Children contract original sin from the sin of Adam; which is made clear by the fact that they are under the ban of death, which "passed upon all" on account of the sin of the first man, as the Apostle says in the same passage (Romans 5:12)”

-Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* III, q.68, a.9, respondeo, c. 1272

“Like adults, infants die—sure proof that they too are under the curse of sin and death.”

-The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, official FAQ

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Rebuttal: Do infants who are claimed to have their “original sin”
washed away in baptism still physically die?

This logic only helps us to see that the “death that spread to all men” is not physical but spiritual death.

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But philosophy is not how one derives at what the scriptures say.
Ephesians 2:1 says, "And you were dead in your offenses and sins."

Actual sins cause spiritual death.

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Spiritual death spreads to all men because they *commit* actual sins.

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Ezekiel 18:20:

"The soul who sins shall die.
The son shall not bear the guilt of the father,
nor the father bear the guilt of the son.
The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself,
and **the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.**"

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Romans 7:9:

"I was alive once **without the law**,
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1. Sin is imputed where there is no law.
 2. Paul was alive once without the law.

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1. Sin is imputed where there is no law.

2. Paul was alive once without the law.

When could this have been the case for Paul? Surely not when he was a Pharisee.

There was no law for Paul when he was an infant who knew not good from evil.

Paul was spiritually alive before becoming personally accountable.

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Romans 7:7-11 ∨ Christian Standard Bible ∨

The commandment that killed Paul is “do not covet” which concerns inward moral desire

⁷ What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not!

But I would not have known sin if it were not for the law. For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, **Do not covet.** ⁸ And sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind. For apart from the law sin is dead.

⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life again ¹⁰ and I died. The commandment that was meant for life resulted in death for me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.

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This is consistent with

Ecclesiastes 7:29:

"Truly, this only I have found: **That God made man upright**,
But they have sought out many schemes."

What about Psalm 51:5?

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity."

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"And in sin my mother conceived me."

Who did something in sin?

Ecclesiastes 7:29:

"Truly, this only I have found: *That God made man upright,*
But they have sought out many schemes."

But for Ecclesiastes some will say "But that is poetry"

Psalm 51 is a song of repentance:

“let the bones You have crushed rejoice.” [verse 8]
Was David’s skeleton literally crushed or singing?

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Meanwhile Ecc. 7 is the highest distilled result of Solomon’s search for wisdom:

“I have tested all this by wisdom...
I resolved, ‘I will be wise,’ but it was beyond me.
What exists is beyond reach and very deep.
Who can discover it? I turned my thoughts to know, explore,
and examine wisdom and an explanation for things...
adding one thing to another to find out the explanation...”

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But they have sought out many schemes.”

With David talking about his own sin and Solomon talking about all of humanity.

Why give more weight to the first than the second?

Circumcision

Circumcision:

Paedobaptists believe that just as circumcision marked infants as belonging to the old covenant people, baptism marks (or sacramentally incorporates) infants into the new covenant people.

Colossians 2:11-12:

“You were *also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands*,
by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,
when you were buried with him in baptism,
in which *you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God*,
who raised him from the dead.”

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Jeremiah 4:4:

“Circumcise yourselves to the Lord; remove the foreskin of your hearts.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Look, the days are coming”—this is the Lord’s declaration—“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt—my covenant that they broke even though I am their master”—the Lord’s declaration. “Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—the Lord’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them”—this is the Lord’s declaration. “For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.”

Philippians 3:3

“For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh.”

Galatians 3:7:

“You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham’s sons.”

Galatians 3:26-29:

“For through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.

There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to the promise.”

The Never-ending Conversation



Sarah St. Onge @shebrin... · 4h

There were zero women who took communion in the Bible.



Sola Chad @sola_chad · May 28

There were zero babies baptized in the Bible. [x.com/uchemaryokoli/...](https://x.com/uchemaryokoli/)



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“Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.”

Proverbs 26:5

Women Participating In Communion According To The Scriptures

Instruction:

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Women Were In The Church:

As in all the churches of the saints,
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Communion Instruction Addressed To The Church Without Distinction:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you:
On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus
took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said,
"This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of
me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and
said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and
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On the first day of the week, we assembled to break bread.

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All Believers Partook of Communion Without Distinction:

Now all who believed were together,
and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and
goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
So continuing daily with one accord in the temple,
and breaking bread from house to house.

Acts 2:44-46

Challenge for Paedobaptists:

Find a Bible passage that says that baptism saves that does not tie this salvation to the participant's faith, active amidst baptism.



Faith → Baptism → Salvation

	<i>Mark 16:16</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>	<i>Galatians 3:26-27</i>
FAITH	"The one who has believed	"Repent	"Through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus
BAPTISM	and has been baptized	and be baptized	For those of you who were baptized into Christ
SALVATION	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."	have been clothed with Christ."

The Godward faith through which God works in baptism

	<i>Acts 22:16</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>	<i>Colossians 2:12</i>	<i>Romans 6:4-17</i>
THE LOCATION	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
THE RESULT	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
THE HEART'S ORIENTATION	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

Double-Standards

Baptism One — Believers



*“Without faith baptism profits nothing.
For it is determined that whatever is not faith
avails nothing nor receives anything.”*

— Large Catechism IV §34

*“God’s works demand faith,
for without faith they could not be apprehended.*

*Baptism becomes beneficial to you
if you have yourself baptized with the thought
that this is according to God’s command and ordinance,
in order that you may receive in the water
the promised salvation.”*

— Large Catechism IV §36

Baptism Two — Infants



*“We are not so much concerned
to know whether the person baptized believes or not.
Baptism is valid, even though faith be wanting.
Baptism does not become invalid
even though it be wrongly received or employed,
since it is not bound to our faith.”*

— Large Catechism IV S52–53

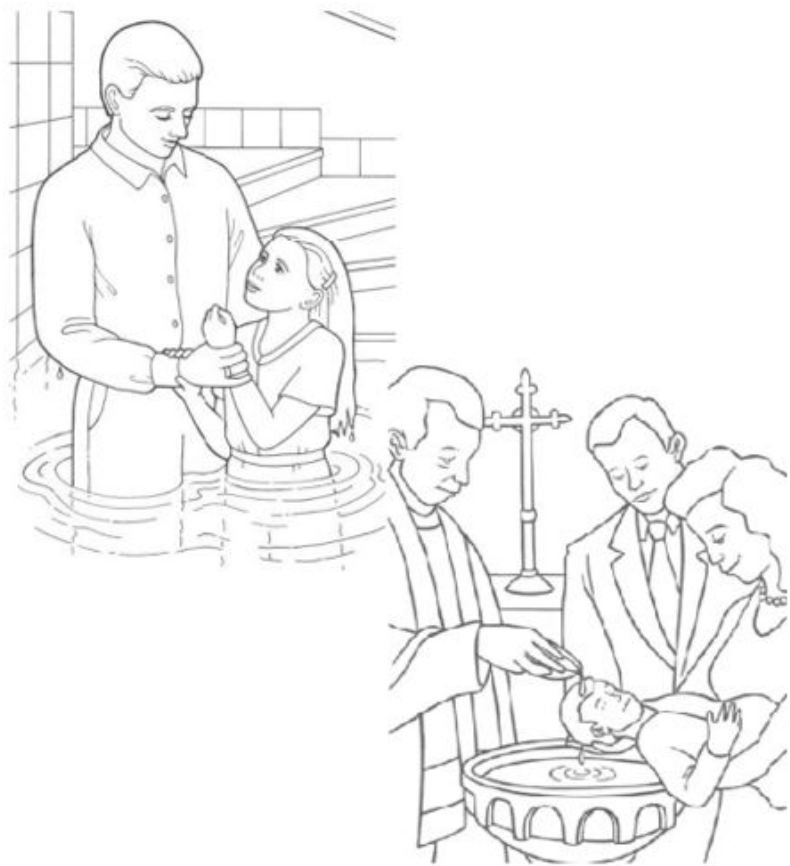
*“In infant baptism we bring the child
in the conviction and hope that it believes,
and we pray that God may grant it faith;
but we do not baptize it upon that.”*

— Large Catechism IV S57

June 28:

**Baptism Series IV:
History & Other Addendums:**

*The two sides of every baptism passage
The baptismal theology of the 2nd Century church
The Gnostic rejection of a baptism that saves
Infant Innocence in the 2nd Century church
& more*



One Baptism:
Are Baptists or
Paedobaptists
Right About Baptism?