

Baptism Part 4
A Response to the Baptismal Regeneration Argument
for Infant Baptism

I. How Baptism Regeneration Promotes Infant Baptism

1. Baptism is necessary for salvation
2. Infants are born with original sin
3. Therefore infants need to be baptized “lest without it [theirs] would be an unhappy exit out of this life” (Augustine)

II. The Good in this Argument:

1. Children *are* born with original sin.
2. The New Testament does have a high view of baptism, and often associates it closely with the remission of sins and becoming a Christian.

III. The Problems with this Argument

1. The apostles never advocate baptism as the answer for an infant’s original sin.
2. Baptism, though associated closely with the remission of sins, is never presented as having any efficacy apart from repentance, faith, calling on the name of the Lord, receiving the Spirit, and appealing to God for a clear conscience.
3. It falsely assumes that baptism can wash away sin apart from faith, and that baptism is absolutely necessary in order to go to heaven.