

## 59. The Obligation of Baptism

Baptism obligates us to the following: "that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and be put to death, and that the new man should come forth daily and rise up, cleansed and righteous, to live forever in God's presence."

Baptism obliges us to die to sin: Rom 6:1-14

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:22-24)

## 60. Child Baptism

Because every child is corrupted by original sin and needs redemption, the congregation of Christ has from the beginning brought little children to the Savior in baptism. It has followed Jesus' words: "Suffer the little children to come unto me." Thus it has wished to leave the life of every person from its most delicate beginning in the protection and care of God.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." (Mark 10: 14,15)

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." (John 15:16)

"The church has received from the apostles the custom of baptizing children also." (The church father Origen)

"Christ came to save all, all I say, who are through Him born anew to the Father, nursing children, little children, youth and elders." (The church father Irenaeus)