

Appendix G Baptismal Vows

Baptism of an Infant Address to the Parents

_____, you have been taught that baptism is a sacrament of God to seal unto us and our children His gracious covenant. Therefore it must be used for that end, and not out of mere custom or superstition. In order to make it clear that you understand the oath you are about to take in this sacrament, I call on you to make a public declaration of your oath by sincerely answering these questions:

1. Do you acknowledge that your child, though conceived and born in sin and therefore subject to all kinds of misery and to condemnation itself, is sanctified in Christ, and therefore ought to be baptized?
2. Do you, by this sacrament, understand that you are obligating yourselves by oath before God and His people to be faithful to this covenant (*“it is better not to vow, than to vow and not pay”* Eccl. 5:5)?
3. Do you acknowledge and assume the responsibility of this covenant, to command your household to keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to you the promises of this covenant (Genesis 18:19)?
4. Do you understand that should you abandon these duties and responsibilities by forsaking this oath, that this baptism, rather than being a blessing, may become a curse instead—(*“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required—* Luke 12:48)?
5. And finally, do you continue to promise, in humble reliance on God’s grace, that you will endeavor to set before _____ a godly example, that you will pray with and for him/her, that you will teach him/her the doctrines of our faith, and that you will strive by all the means God has provided, to bring him/her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

TO THE CONGREGATION:

Do you, by this baptism, receive _____ into the covenant community of God’s people, and joyfully enter into covenant with the _____ household to assist them in every lawful way, by your prayers, examples and exhortations, to faithfully lead _____ in the everlasting way?

Address to Child:

Little child, *for you* Jesus Christ has come, He has fought, He has suffered. *For you* He entered into the shadows of Gethsemane and the terror of Calvary; *for you* He uttered the cry “it is finished.” *For you* He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and there *for you* He intercedes. *For you*, even though you do not yet know it, little child, but in this way the Word of the Gospel is made true, “We love him because He first loved us.”