

I myself am one of those who got such a soaking (= baptism) yesterday

fb: Philosopher Games

Christian Baptism: The Thorny Issues

- (1) “Original Sin”
- (2) Babies?!
- (3) Jesus?!
- (4) The Unbaptized

What do you know about original sin?

Genesis 3 = “The Fall”

Typical reading:

God says “don’t eat”; serpent tricks; woman eats, man eats → BAM! stain of original sin!

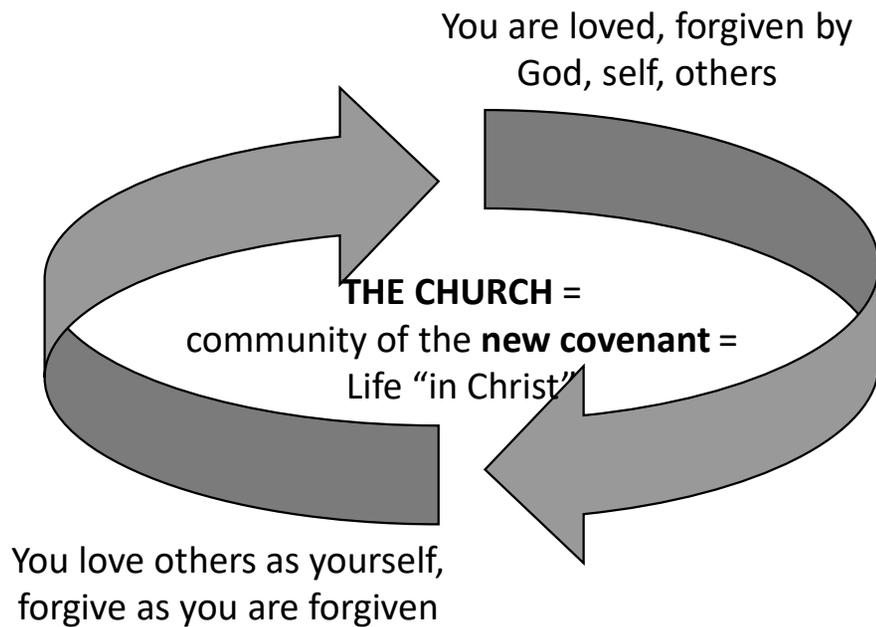
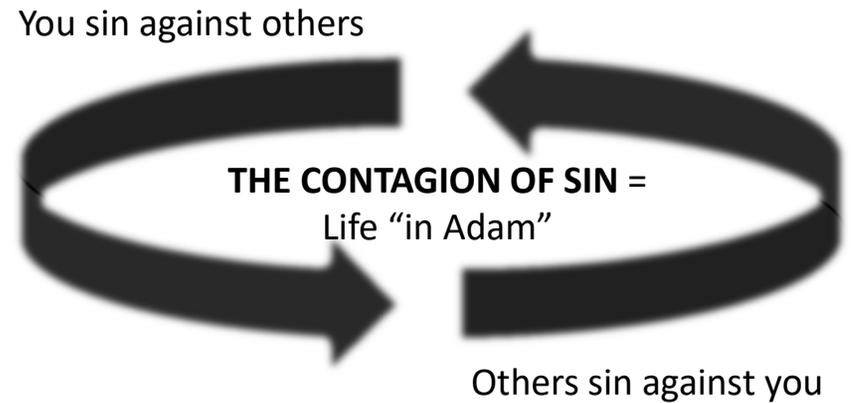
Other reading:

Jealousy/rivalry with God (God withholding fuller life!); woman and man anxious in face of death, fear their finiteness → grasp for life.
→ Gen 4 = Cain **kills** Abel.

Jesus’s Resurrection

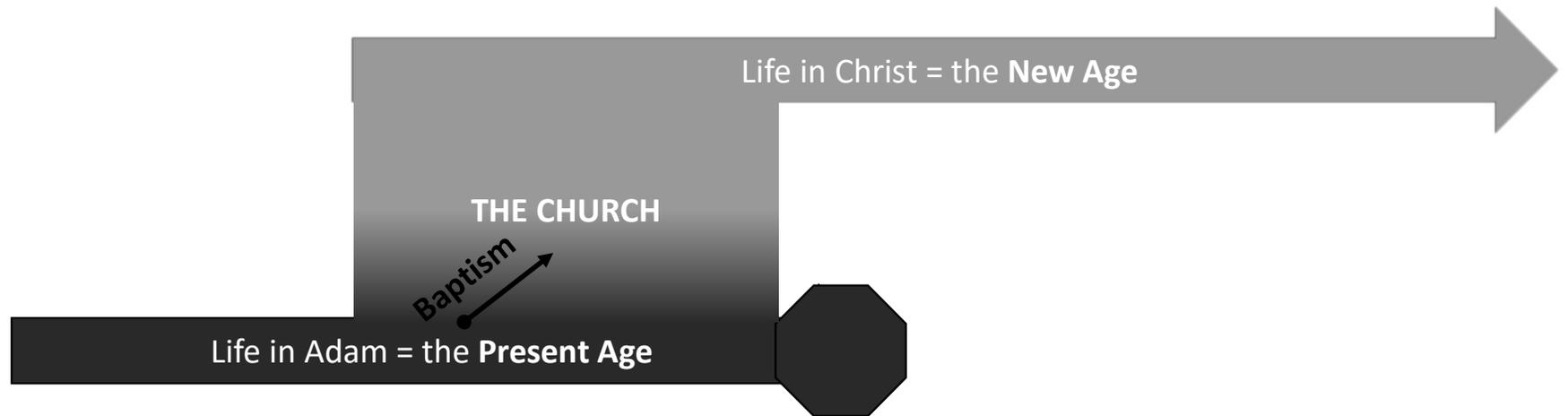
- God, **through death**, reveals himself to be **beyond death**.
- Reveals original plan for humanity: no need to sin, fear death since we are called into eternal life.
 - God isn’t withholding.
 - God didn’t create us flawed.
 - We are developing/evolving into our fullness

Original Sin: a social reality...



...healed socially by grace.

Salvation from Original Sin



Salvation from Original Sin

Ephesians 4:22-24

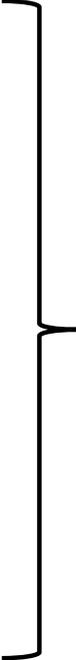
You should put away the **old self** of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires...

...and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the **new self**, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.



Baptizing Babies?

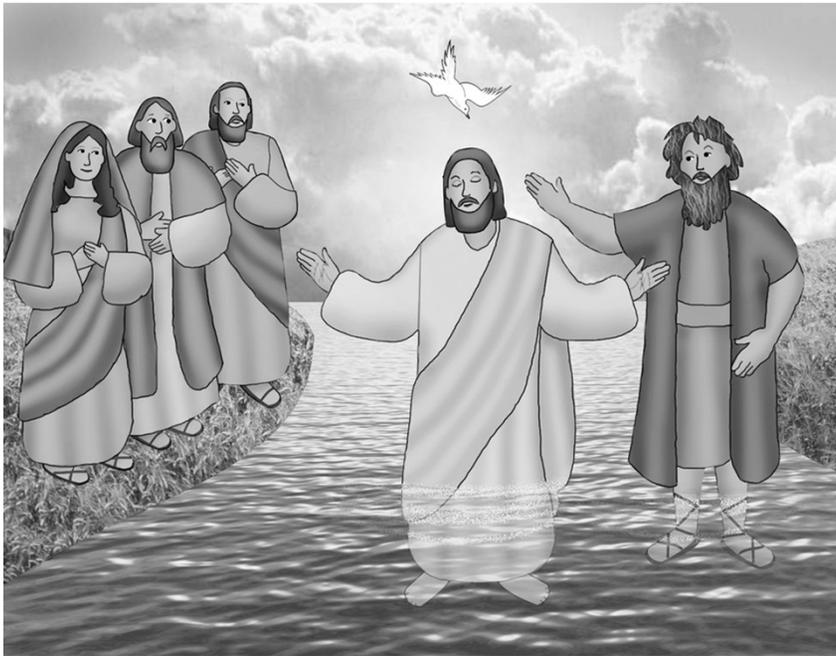
1. Original sin is real and was the result of a real human choice.
2. Original sin has affected the rest of humanity.
3. There's no way "out" of sin except through the grace of Christ.
4. Baptism confers the grace of Christ



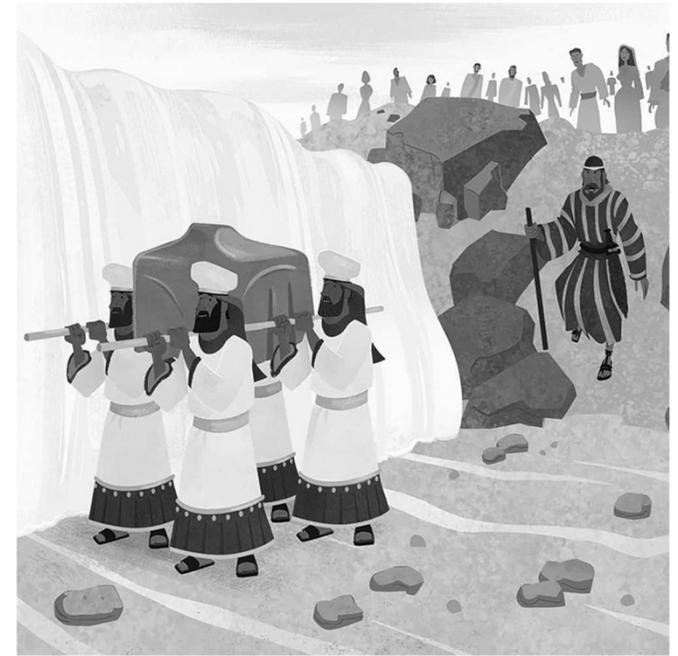
Babies can and should be baptized too.

Baptizing Jesus?

1. Symbol of leading us into new life = fulfilled promise



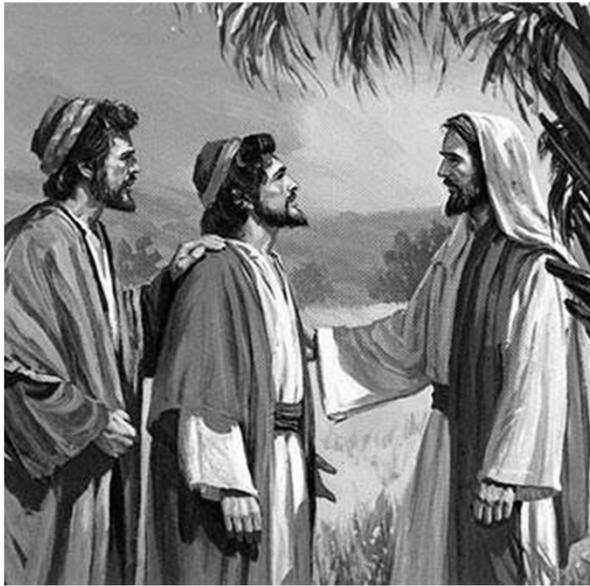
Jesus in the Jordan: beginning his mission of fulfilling God's promises
(Mark 1)



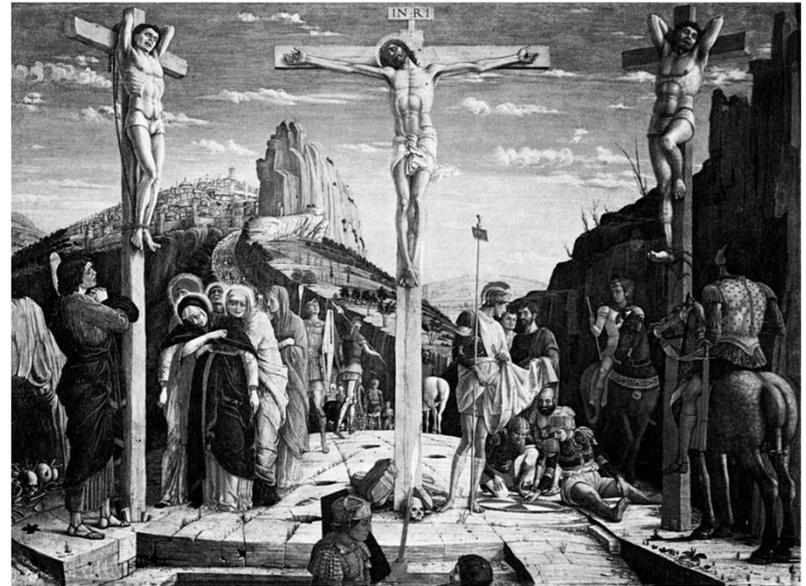
Joshua (= Jesus) crossing the Jordan
into the Promised Land (Joshua 3)

Baptizing Jesus?

2. Symbol of his taking on our human condition, esp. death.



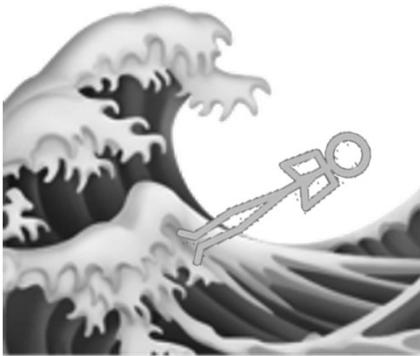
Jesus to the ambitious sons of Zebedee: “Can you drink the cup that I will drink or be **baptized** with the **baptism with which I am baptized?**” (Mark 10:38)



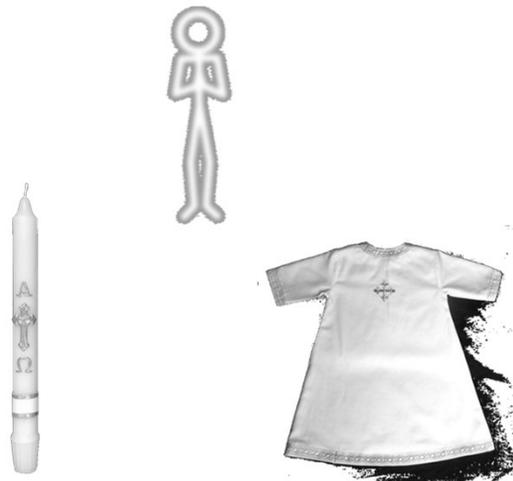
“For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to **give his life as a ransom** for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Your Baptism

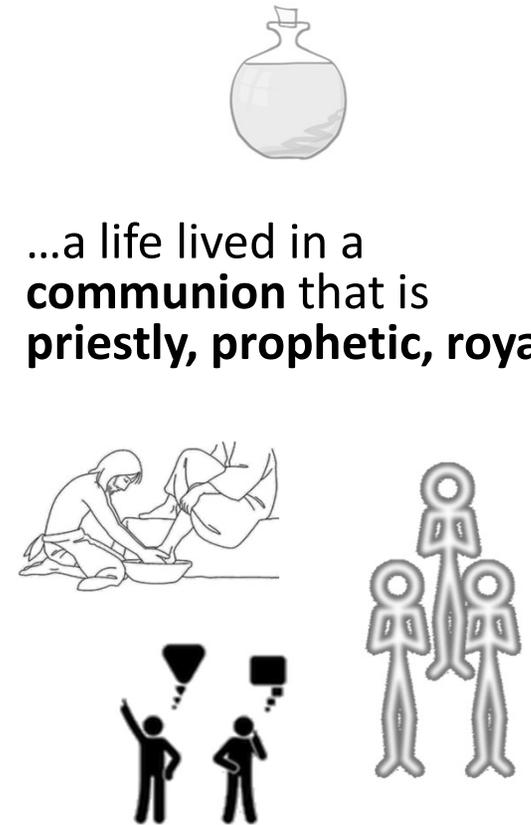
A death and burial



The beginning of risen life, the life promised



...a life lived in a communion that is priestly, prophetic, royal



The Life of the Baptized

Ephesians 4:25ff

Therefore, putting away **falsehood, speak the truth...Be angry but do not sin...No foul language** should come out of your mouths, but **only such as is good** for needed **edification**, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And **do not grieve the holy Spirit** of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All **bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling** must be removed from you, along with all **malice**. **Be kind** to one another, **compassionate, forgiving** one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

So **be imitators of God**, as beloved children, and **live in love**, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma. **Immorality** or **any impurity** or **greed** must not even be mentioned among you, as is fitting among holy ones, **no obscenity** or **silly or suggestive talk**, which is out of place, but instead, **thanksgiving...**

Other “Baptisms”?

By Blood



By Desire



