

dimly. We are liable to Error and Deception even after our most careful Researches and Endeavours to be rightly informed. Should we not therefore bear with each other, and shew Charity and Compassion to the Infirmities of our Brethren? How many Imperfections, how much Guilt do we find adhering to ourselves, when we examine our Lives by the divine Law, and weigh our Actions in the Balance of the Sanctuary! This should humble us in the Sight of God; and inspire us with Tenderness, Forbearance and Charity to those who are in the same imperfect State with us. And it is my sincere Desire that this little Essay, may, thro' the divine Blessing, be instrumental in promoting such a Disposition, at the same Time that it points out to the Reader the Lawfulness and Necessity of INFANT BAPTISM, and confirms him in this Part of the *Faith once delivered to the Saints*.

There are two Particulars with which I beg the Reader will permit me to conclude this Section.

1. It were much to be wished that Sponsors who present Children to be baptized, were mindful of their Duty in Consequence thereof, and punctual in discharging it. There is Reason to fear, that many look upon answering for a Child at the Font, to be no more than a decent Ceremony, or Compliment paid to the Child's Parents, which is no more to be thought on or regarded after the Baptism is finished. This is a very great and dangerous Mistake, as well as Perversion of the End and Design of having Sponsors.

Sponsors for Children at Baptism were very early used in the Christian Church. Basilian, who flourished not quite 100 Years after the Apostles, mentions them in a Passage already quoted as p. 10; and in such a Manner as plainly evinceth the Usage to be general, and of long standing. Besides other good Ends that may be answered by this Practice; Sponsors are a very prudent; necessary Security to the Church of God, that the Infant admitted