

Neither let the reader suppose that the only question between us and other denominations, as to the mode of baptism, is merely one of more or less water. The real issue is on a principle which has to do with adherence to all truth. It is this, shall we feel ourselves bound to yield an exact obedience to the definite instructions of our Lord, thus avowing our belief that he had a specific purpose to serve in the ordinance as he commanded it, which cannot be so well served in any other way, or shall we take the liberty to change what he has ordained, thus encouraging a spirit of looseness and rashness, while we attribute to our Lord the folly of enjoining what is so immaterial that so distant an approach as sprinkling is to immersion will do as well as that which He commands. The nature of the issue can be seen in the words of Jn. Calvin Institutes IV, XIX, "But whether the person who is baptized be wholly immersed, and whether thrice or once, or whether water be only poured or sprinkled upon him, is of no importance. Churches ought to be left at liberty in this respect to act according to the difference of countries. *The very word baptize, however, signifies to immerse, and it is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.*" Baptists, on the contrary, hold that the form of baptism is adapted by divine wisdom to serve the divine purpose, and that therefore neither Jn. Calvin nor anyone else can tamper with it, or enjoin a different form, without putting himself above Christ and in opposition to Him.

Finally, may we not urge upon the reader the duty of giving to this question a calm and unbiassed consideration. To be on the side of truth in all things is to be on the side of God in everything; for he is Truth. To be on the side of error in anything is to be against him in something. We shall soon all be in our graves, and any saving of self denial through wilfully or carelessly remaining in partial error, will not serve us. But the man who has been willing to suffer even that God's truth in its wholeness may have the devotion of his life, shall then have eternal honor.