

From that declaration, it is clear that its authors believed that *baptism was a saving ordinance*, so that infant baptism was really an outgrowth of "*baptismal regeneration*." And that is the *only reason* those 66 bishops give for baptizing infants. Observe that they make *no appeal* to the *New Testament*; they produce not *one solitary passage* from the *Gospels* or *Epistles*; they point us to not *one precept, command, or example* to support their monstrous and impudent mandate. But setting aside the *revealed will of God*, the *plain commands of Christ*, and the *practices of the Apostles*; they of their *free will*, set up an institution, which has been associated with the *darkest errors*, from the day of its origin until now.

"The sign of the *cross* was an early superstition among ancient christians; whatever they were doing—dressing, putting on their shoes, sitting down to meals, wherever they were going, to a feast, or a bath, or to bed, or on from home they returned, they used the sign of the cross. Of course at the baptism of an infant, it was had in requisition. The infant was sometimes immersed thrice, had put into its little mouth milk and honey, and was not only anointed with holy oil, *but had actually administered to it the elements of the "Lord's Supper."* Before Pædo-baptism appeared—or around it when it did appear—the doctrines of baptismal regeneration—of purgatory—of prayers for the dead—of consecration of baptismal water—and the use of Sponsors—as well as a whole host of the most absurd and silly mummeries—all found standing ground."

Let me remind you that, the baptism of infants authorized by Cyprian's council, was not "*infant sprinkling*," but it was "*infant immersion*," as it is in the Greek Church (Russia) today. It was only in cases of *severe sickness* and approaching *death* that "*sprinkling*" was substituted for "*baptism*;" and to show that "*sprinkling*" even in such emergencies was *not regarded* as an *equivalent* to "*baptism*," I here quote from a work by two great Pædo-baptists Drs. Storr and Platt—"Biblical Theology," Article Baptism. "*Immersion was so customary in the ancient Church, that even in the third century the baptism of the sick, who were merely sprinkled with water, was entirely neglected by some, and by others was thought inferior to the baptism of those who were in health, and who re-*