

*visible church ; and if it is not an act of obedience ; why should it be observed ?*

*Ans.* Because Christ has commanded his servants to whom he has entrusted the gospel message, to put on those who profess to be his disciples this sign and seal of the covenant which proclaims (1) Discipleship, (2) Union to Christ, (3) Pardon and cleansing—which things are true in the experience of every real Christian. Moreover, when baptism is received in faith it becomes effectual as a means of grace by the working of Christ's spirit in the recipient. Without faith and the baptism of the Holy Spirit baptism with water effects nothing.

## II.

### Baptism of Infants.

“Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him ; but infants descended from parents, either both or one of whom, professing faith in Christ and obedience to him, are in that respect within the covenant and to be baptized.” (Larger Catechism, question 166.)

#### 19. *Should Infants be Baptized ?*

*Ans.* The Scriptures teach that the children of Christian parents should be baptized. As appears from what follows : (1) As the parent is Christ's, so is the offspring (Ezek. xviii. 4 ; xvi. 21) ; the child is “not unclean, but holy,” having right of access to God (1 Cor. vii. 14) ; and being claimed by God as his, ought to be formally dedicated to Him.

(2) Infants were received by Christ, and he declared that to “them belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matt. xix. 14.)

(3) As children who belong to God, they are to be “brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. vi. 4 ; Duet. vi. 7) ; and they are interested in the promise of the covenant. (Acts ii. 39.)