

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## INFANT BAPTISM: RESPONSE 1

By Jeff Sweeten

It was so encouraging to read a response to my article, "Infant Baptism," which ran a couple of weeks ago. I have always advanced the notion that a civil, sincere conversation about religious differences can be most productive. And, I invite Mr. Kalbas to continue our discussion (via e-mail, personal get-together or even in a public forum). I believe that our discussion will produce much good and a better understanding of God's Word.

Considering his lengthy response, I cannot possibly do justice to a thorough rejoinder in my short 400-word article. Nevertheless, I will respond to our differences in multiple articles. I encourage you to retain my article and his response as a reference for this dialogue.

I appreciate Mr. Kalbas' forthright admission that there exists no "explicit command to baptize children or babies" (or example or implication, either). However, the Bible does teach that we should baptize every creature (so, by implication, this includes women) who understands the Gospel (which does not include babies, cf. Mark 16:15). Faith, on shifting sand, is destined for a "great fall" (Matthew 7:24-27). What is Mr. Kalbas' foundational flaw? He believes that all human beings are born depraved, Hell-bound and children of their father, Satan. But wait, what does the Scripture say? Quite simply, the Bible says sin is a transgression of the law (lawlessness, 1 John 3:4). What is interesting about this verse is he instigating feature of sin: commission. When John says, "Whoever **commits** sin also **commits** lawlessness," he is describing how sin manifests its existence. How could anyone look at an innocent, pure, sinless, new-born infant and believe they are vile, filthy, repugnant, sin-infested creatures fit for a Devil's Hell? (Grandma certainly does not agree!)

Clearly, sin is not something inherited, but committed. Thus saith the Lord: "**All souls are mine... the soul who sins shall die,**" and again, "**The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself**" (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). Therefore, the premise for spritzing babies is contrary to the clear teaching of the Bible. No human being has ever inherited Adam's sin. All who sin are all those persons who commit sin.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**