

we look into the history of the early Christian church there is absolutely no doubt that immersion was sometimes used. But when Calvin says it was the method of the early church, we can definitely prove that that is too ~~soft~~ ^{strong, but} that in the early church sometimes they immersed, sometimes they poured, sometimes they sprinkled - the mode does not matter; it is the fact that "washing with water" is an illustration of ~~our~~ our being cleansed from sin and ingrafted into Christ, and the way in which it is done does not matter. We must never let ourselves become a sect, taking one particular small point and emphasizing it out of its place in our system of doctrine. If we are true Presbyterians we must put our stress on the great things of the Scripture, on Bible study, on making the Bible central in everything; on evangelism, on seeking to win the lost, which is our primary duty as Christians, and on being of help to all Christians.

People sometimes speak about John Calvin's activities in Geneva as a tempest in a teapot, because ^{here} ~~it~~ was a little town and in that little town Calvin was faced with all sorts of difficulties from very petty people. His life was in danger time after time, but he wasn't like Luther with a whole empire he was facing. Calvin was working in this little town there, but Calvin's interest was not in the little town. Calvin was using that little town as a center from which to send the Gospel out. He was developing it as a center where he could train people who could go out and spread the Word of God. Calvin was corresponding with the leaders of Christianity in every country of Europe, regardless of their denominational background, regardless of their general attitude. If they were true Christians, Calvin was ready to spend any amount of time answering their questions from the Word of God. In trying to help them and to encourage them, his interest went out to all Christians. And we are in the line of true Presbyterianism when we take an interest in such an organization as the International Council of Christian Churches with its effort to reach a helping hand to Korea, a helping hand to Pakistan, a helping hand to any area where the Gospel of Christ is being manifest by the advances of modernism and apostasy, and to standing shoulder and shoulder with all true Christians even if some of them lack the blessing that we have