

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Modifiers detract. “I love you” is absolute. “I love you *very much*” is relative. The addition appears to enhance the statement, but it lessens the meaning. When you feel the need to modify a word with an adjective or adverb, choose another word!

In baptism, additions subtract. Adding the making of the sign of the cross on the forehead indicates that baptism with water is insufficient. Parading a baby down the aisle suggests that forgiveness of sin is not enough. Trying to be cute or funny gives the appearance of trifling with the command of Christ.

Part of what the Reformers did was to strip away centuries of accretions to worship in order to allow the power of the reading and preaching of the word and of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s supper to shine forth without blemish or distraction. Can we not do the same?

In worship as in life, simplicity is close to integrity.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*

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