
From: Dr Francis Nigel Lee <francisnigellee@dr-fnlee.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 10:37 AM
To: Dr Francis Nigel Lee
Subject: Re: Nicholas Leone vs. Dr. Lee on baptism

----- Original Message -----

From: [Dr Francis Nigel Lee](#)
Cc: [Johanna Lee](#) ; [Anna M. Lee](#) ; [Danny Mihailovic](#) ; [Andrew Bigg](#) ; [Graham Nicholson OPTUS](#) ; [MARTIN EDWARD DUFFIELD](#)
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 10:08 AM
Subject: Nicholas Leone vs. Dr. Lee on baptism

----- Original Message -----

From: [Dr Francis Nigel Lee](#)
Subject: Nicholas Leone vs. Dr. Lee on baptism

Dear "Reformed Baptist" Nicholas Leone,

Thanks for writing, though I note your tone is sometimes quite harsh!
Note your words, which I have rewritten below in BLOCK CAPITALS.

I respond below, also in BLOCK CAPITALS, to some of your statements.
Fraternally in Christ's glorious service,

Rev. Professor-Emeritus Dr. Francis Nigel Lee
Queensland Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Australia

----- Original Message -----

From: "Nick" <na_leone@hotmail.com>
To: <francisnigellee@dr-fnlee.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 9:07 AM

Dr. Lee, what is the reason for your ANIMUS toward Baptists?

NO "ANIMUS"! LIKE CALVIN (WHO MARRIED AN ANABAPTIST AFTER PERSUADING HER OF PAEDOBAPTISM). I TOO HAVE MANY BAPTIST FRIENDS

Don't you know that there are Baptists (such as myself) who hold to the Doctrines of Grace and Covenant Theology?

PLEASED TO HEAR THIS, NICK!

Our Confession of Faith is the 1689 London Baptist Confession, and before that was the equally Calvinistic 1646 London Baptist Confession.

BOTH DEPENDENT ON THE PAEDOBAPTIST WESTMINSTER STANDARDS!
BUT DON'T YOU KNOW THAT MOST BAPTISTS TODAY REJECT THOSE BAPTIST STANDARDS?

In your treatise against Anabaptists (and Baptists) you claim that the Roman Catholic Church practiced credobaptism by immersion before the Reformation. This claim is ABSURD.

NO, NOT "ABSURD"! I CLAIMED RC CHURCH BEFORE REFORMATION SUBMERSED. NOT THAT IT EVER PRACTISED CREDOBAPTISM ALONE! ALSO THE EASTERN "ORTHODOX" CHURCHES HAVE FOR VERY LONG TRIPLE-SUBMERSED THEIR INFANTS

The Catholic church has always practiced infant baptism except for adult converts.

CORRECT.

The practice of paedobaptism is an old one indeed, though it does not extend back to the Apostles.

CALVIN AND I CLAIM IT DID. IN FACT, TO WAY BEFORE THAT. EVEN RIGHT BACK TO PAEDOCIRCUMCISION, WHICH PAEDOBAPTISM THEN REPLACED AT CHRIST'S ADVENT (COLOSSIANS 2:11-13). AND PAEDOCIRCUMCISION GOES RIGHT BACK TO ABRAHAM AND HIS INFANTS (GENESIS 17:7-14 & 21:4), IF NOT EVEN TO MELCHIZEDEK (GENESIS 14:18-20) AND NOAH (6:18 AND FIRST PETER 3:20-21) -- RIGHT BACK TO THE FALL (GENESIS 3:15), AND EVEN TO MAN'S VERY CREATION (1:28 & 2:22-24).

You also claim the Anabaptists were ALL heretics.

UNTRUE! NOT "ALL"! I ONCE DATED A BAPTIST, AND CALVIN MARRIED AN EX-ANABAPTIST!

You have lumped all who were called Anabaptists together with heretics such as Thomas Muenzer, Jan Van Leyden, and the Muenster rebels.

UNTRUE. I HAVE NEVER BEFORE HEARD OF "JAN VAN LEYDEN." (THOUGH I READ DUTCH FLUENTLY; DO YOU)?

You ignore the fact that men like Menno Simmons, Felix Manz, Conrad Grebel, Hans Denck, Casper Schwenckfeld, and others were TRUE CHRISTIANS,

GREBEL WROTE TO MUENZER SEPT. 5TH 1524: "DEAR BROTHER THOMAS!... IT REJOICED US...THAT WE FOUND ONE WHO WAS OF THE SAME CHRISTIAN MIND WITH US.... INFANT BAPTISM IS A SENSELESS, BLASPHEMOUS ABOMINATION!... YOU ARE FAR PURER THAN OUR MEN HERE.... (SIGNED) CONRAD GREBEL..., FELIX MANZ..., AND SEVEN NEW YOUNG MUENZERS AGAINST LUTHER."

ANABAPTIST HAETZER WAS ANTITRINITARIAN. THUS THE PRO-ANABAPTIST G.H. WILLIAMS. ANABAPTIST SERVETUS TOO WAS ANTITRINARIAN. THUS THE TRINITARIAN JOHN CALVIN.

THE ANTITRINITARIAN DENCK REBAPTIZED HANS HUT, A FORMER FOLLOWER OF MUENZER. THE HUTTERITES' 1527 SCHLEITHEIM ARTICLES ARE ALSO VERY REVEALING!

We wouldn't agree with them on every issue, but these men were Christians nonetheless who affirmed the Fundamentals of the Faith.

SIMONS PROBABLY WAS (DESPITE HIS UNCLARITY ON THE TRINITY). HE ORDAINED THE UNITARIAN ANABAPTIST ADAM PASTOR. SIMONS DENIED CHRIST DERIVED HIS FLESH FROM HIS MOTHER MARY.

Also, your linking of the English Baptists to the continental Anabaptists is ERRONEOUS. The Particular Baptists disavowed any connection whatsoever to the Anabaptists.

ACTUALLY THERE WERE ANABAPTISTS EVEN IN ENGLAND, WHO INFLUENCED THE FIRST BAPTISTS THERE.
PROMINENT AMONG BRITISH ANABAPTISTS WAS THE 'FAMILY OF LOVE' IN ENGLAND. BY 1587, MOST OF THE POPULATION OF NORWICH ALONE CONSISTED OF REFUGEE DUTCH ANABAPTISTS. SEE THE GREAT ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN THOMAS CARTWRIGHT'S 1589 BOOK "THE ANABAPTISTS' ERROR CONFUTED." LOVE'S SECT ORIGINATED IN GERMANY WITH HENRY NICHOLAS (NIKLAES), A NATIVE OF MUENSTER. IN HIS 1546 BOOK "OF THE SPIRITUAL LAND OF PROMISE," NIKLAES DEFENDED SPIRITUAL MARRIAGE -- AKIN TO MORMON TEACHING.

EASTERN BAPTIST SEMINARY'S PROF. R.G. TORBET WROTE IN HIS 1950 "HISTORY OF THE BAPTISTS" THAT "RAUSCHENBUSCH OF COLGATE ROCHESTER BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, IDENTIFIED BAPTISTS WITH SOCIALLY-RADICAL ANABAPTISTS." TORBET ALSO AFFIRMED THAT THE BRITISH BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORIAN ERNEST PAYNE SAID IN THE BAPTIST QUARTERLY THAT "THE ANABAPTISTS WERE AN INFLUENCE IN ENGLAND WHICH AFFECTED BAPTIST DEVELOPMENT." PAYNE WROTE OF THE "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EARLY ENGLISH BAPTISTS AND THE CONTINENTAL ANABAPTISTS. LARGE NUMBERS OF THESE CAME CAME IN(TO BRITAIN IN) 1528..., UNTIL 1573.... THE EARLIER ANABAPTIST REFUGEES WERE DISCIPLES OF MELCHIOR HOFMANN'S FANATICAL TEACHING."

THE FIRST BRITISH (ANA)BAPTIST SMYTH MIGRATED TO HOLLAND, AND IN 1609 WROTE A TRACT AGAINST INFANT BAPTISM TITLED "THE CHARACTER OF THE BEAST ['666']." UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE WATERLANDER MENNONITES, SMITH BECAME AN ANABAPTIST. HE 'BAPTIZED' HIMSELF! SMYTH'S SUCCESSOR THOMAS HELWYS THEN RETURNED TO ENGLAND, TO FOUND ITS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1611.

You accuse the Anabaptists of practicing "Communism". If you are talking about the revolutionary heretics, that is fine.

FINE!

You should know, though, that Oliver Cromwell and his followers were guilty of the same sins as Muenzer, Van Leyden, and their followers.

CAREFUL! I'M A GREAT FAN OF JOLLY OLLY!

Their actions all violated the commands of Romans 13:1-9. The American "founding fathers" were guilty of this too.

"ALL"? BE VERY CAREFUL! REMEMBER THE NINTH COMMANDMENT!

If you are accusing the true Anabaptists of "Communism", however, you are incorrect.

ONLY THE MUENSTERITES AND HAETZER ADVOCATED COMMUNITY OF WOMEN. WIEDEMANN AND RIEDEMANN HELD COMMUNITY OF PROPERTY WAS CARDINAL, AND THE HUTTERITES WERE COMMUNISTS. SEE 5TH EPISTLE OF *PSEUDO-ISIDOREAN DECRETALS*.

They practised "Community of Goods" -- as is seen in Acts 2:44-46. All Christians live by the rule set down in these verses. If your brother in the church had debts that he could not pay and you could help him, would you not? And doesn't everything we have belong to God anyway?

GOD WARNS US AGAINST STANDING SURETY!
SEE MY REFUTATION OF ANABAPTIST VIEW OF ACTS 2:44-46, TITLED:

"BIBLICAL PRIVATE PROPERTY VERSUS SOCIALISTIC COMMON PROPERTY."
REMEMBER, ALL THOSE WHO STAYED IN JERUSALEM, LOST ALL IN 70 A.D.!!
NOT SO THOSE CHRISTIANS IN CORINTH, WHO HUNG ON TO THEIR OWN HOUSES (I COR. 10:22).

Finally, you mention Baptists in the same sentence with Adventists, Mormons, Russelites,

WELL, ALL THESE REJECT PAEDOBAPTISM AND SPRINKLING!

Atheists, and Communists,

MOST OF THEM HATE BAPTISM BY ANY STANDARD!

and you call on Baptists to "repent". This is not only offensive,

BUT BAPTISTS AND PRESBYTERIANS TOO WITH UNBAPTIZED BABIES,
DO NEED TO REPENT OF THEIR UNHOLY REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THOSE BABIES AS HOLY FROM BEFORE THEIR BIRTH ONWARD.
DO YOU REGARD THE UNBAPTIZED BABIES OF GODLY BAPTISTS
AS SAVED, LOST, OR IN LIMBO? I COR. 7:14!

but it is bearing FALSE WITNESS against your Christian Brothers (Baptists). Bearing false witness is a sin. So really, who needs to repent here? Your comments are unnecessarily divisive. There are Baptists who have the same attitude toward Presbyterians that you have toward Baptists. They're called Landmarkers and IF BAPTISTS, I repudiate them both. Ironically, in your DIATRIBE against Baptists, you resemble the WORST of those called Baptists!

I BOUGHT MY HOME IN TENNESSEE FROM VERY PLEASANT LANDMARKERS!

Just because paedobaptists of previous generations had such negative and angry attitudes toward Baptists, doesn't mean that you have to, as well! It is incredibly SLANDEROUS and sophomoric to compare your fellow evangelical Christians to heretics, cultists, pagans, atheists, and communists.

YOU, NICK, CLAIM TO BE A REFORMED BAPTIST. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CALVIN?

I have noticed that you are postmillennial as well. Aren't you aware that the historic view of the church is amillennialism, not postmillennialism?

I REGARD THE EARLIEST VIEW AS POSTMILLENNIAL (with two N's!). SO TOO DID THE GREAT BAPTIST GILL!

Postmillennialism suggests that Christ CAN return, until we Christians have taken over the world first!

I THINK YOU MEAN "cannot" -- NOT "can"!

Such as position is certainly in error. Furthermore, the governments of every Western country grow increasingly anti-Christian every day. Unless God were to grant a massive revival, the scenario you are imagining will never happen.

I THINK YOU MEAN NOT "as" -- BUT "a."

BUT GOD CAN GRANT A MASSIVE REVIVAL FIRST!
SURELY, YOU TOO ARE SO PRAYING?

The Bible also says that things will be worse in the last days, before the return of Christ. The Lord can return any day,

READ II THESS. 2:2!

and the doctrine of His IMMEDIATE return is both Biblical and the historic position of the church.

"IMMEDIATE"? YOU REMIND ME HERE OF THE BAPTIST EVANGELIST WHO IN 1977 PUBLICALLY CLAIMED AS "IMMEDIATE" THAT CHRIST WOULD RETURN THAT WEEKEND! THE NEXT MONDAY,

I REMINDED HIM I TOO AM A CHRISTIAN, BUT WAS STILL HERE (AS HE HIMSELF TOO WAS)!

Finally, Dr. Lee, your attempts to rewrite history are as ABSURD as J. M. Carroll's.

THE GREAT BAPTIST CARROLL? NOW, NOW!

It is a known fact that Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin carried paedobaptism over from Roman Catholicism, although they each modified the doctrine somewhat. Just accept it. Further, in the Bible there are no such things as "Sacraments", and Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not "means of grace". Such are Popish doctrines, not Biblical. As long as you hold to them, you will be just as bound to human tradition as any Arminian. This is how I see it, but you won't see me writing any hateful historical revisionist propaganda against Presbyterians.

BUT I AM A CALVINISTIC PRESBYTERIAN! DO YOU THINK THE TONE OF WHAT YOU WROTE ABOUT ME WAS RESPECTFUL?

Again, your diatribe is a perfect example of bearing FALSE WITNESS. I hope you will RETRACT and APOLOGIZE for your book, "The Anabaptists and their Stepchildren." And if you were so offended by Leonard Verduin's book, then why didn't you write a response in the spirit of love? And Verduin isn't even a Baptist, but a Mennonite! And his co-author was a Methodist!

"FALSE WITNESS"?! I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DEAL FURTHER WITH VERDUIN!

As a Reformed Baptist, I repudiate Arminianism, Dispensationalism, easy-believeism, Landmarkism (Baptist successionism), the IFB cult, and KJV/TR Onlyism. For the same reasons I also repudiate sacramentalism, paedobaptism, preterism, postmillennialism, dominionism, and federal visionism. I believe all of these to be false doctrines.

Baptists and Presbyterians are both evangelical Christians, however, as we both affirm salvation by grace through faith alone. Why can't we stand together against those who deny that Gospel -- such as Catholics, Campbellites, Modernists, and all other enemies of the Faith?

WE SHOULD! BUT STAND WITH ME FIRST AGAINST THOSE WHO DENY THEIR OWN COVENANT BABES ARE CHRISTIANS!

(AFTER SENDING NICHOLAS THE ABOVE E-MAIL, HE ADMITTED HE WAS HARSH AND APOLOGIZED!) AS REV. W. ROGERS REMARKS: "A 'REFORMED BAPTIST" SHOULD END UP A PRESBYTERIAN!"