FOUR VIEWS OF BAPTISM

	ROMAN CATHOLIC	LUTHERAN	REFORMED/PRES.	BAPTIST
What is baptism?	A ceremony that absolves one from original sin, & infuses the power of Christ's saving grace.	A ceremony which is ordinarily used to absolve one from sin, & infuses the power of Christ's saving grace.	A sign and seal of God's covenant promises to a believer and his household, the believer's promises to God, and the congregation's promises to God.	A testimony and symbol of one's conversion and belief in Jesus Christ.
Who should be baptized?	Children, and anyone who desires it.	Children, and only those adults to profess faith in Jesus Christ.	Only those believers and children who are brought under the care and nurture of the church — God's covenant people.	Only those who profess faith in Jesus Christ.
How should it be done?	Sprinkling of holy water that has been blessed by a priest.	Sprinkling of water, along w/the words of the minister.	Immersion, pouring, or sprinkling, before a public assembly.	Immersion
Who may administer it?	Priests, and some laymen.	Those authorized by the Church.	Those authorized by the church, namely ordained ministers.	Those authorized by the church.
The power of baptism	Power to cleanse one from original sin and his own sins. It has the power to make a person become born-again.	Power to produce faith in infants. For believing adults, it also has the power to provide cleansing from sins, deliverance from Satan, and	Has no power in itself. But when accompanied by the preaching of the Word, it strengthens the faith of the listener.	Has no power in itself.
Relationship to salvation	It keeps the person out of hell. Salvation is impossible without it or some variation of it.	It is the ordinary means of salvation. In an extraordinary sense, however, God may save some who are not baptized.	Not necessary for salvation, yet commanded by God.	Not necessary for salvation, yet commanded by God, and symbolizes a person has already been saved.