

“Cutesy Theology” by Rev. Dr. Kyle D. Hite

Baptism is cute, but a powerful sign of a loving parent.

Elephants may be the most protective parents on the planet.

Herds of females and children usually travel together in a circle with the youngest member on the inside, protected from predators. If one child becomes an orphan, the rest of the herd will adopt him.

Elephants also mourn their dead. A bereaved mother will behave in a depressed manner for days while the herd creates a burial of the dead. Cows collect leaves and twigs to cover the body of the deceased. Even years later, elephants have been observed revisiting the site where one of their own had died.

What would you do to protect your family?

When I first help my new born babies, I looked down at them in my arms and said “there is nothing I will not do to protect you.”

John Knox

Mark what has been the practice of the Devil from the beginning, most cruelly to **rage** against God's children, when God begins to show them his mercy. And therefore marvel not, dearly beloved, though this should happen to you. If Satan fume and roar against you, whether it be against your bodies by persecution, or inwardly in your consciences by a spiritual battle, do not be discouraged, as though you were less acceptable in God's presence, or that Satan might at any time prevail against you. No! ... I have good **hope**, and my prayer will likewise be, that you may be so strengthened, that the world and Satan himself may understand and perceive, that God is fighting your battle.

The Apostle Paul feels the immensity of his protective instinct.

Like a protective mother, Paul instructs his children.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (ESV) —

- **2** the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- **4** But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all children of light, children of the day.
 - Kirkin’ is about protecting our Children. Not about a cute ritual.
 - **It is a statement of our refusal to roll over and follow the ways of death!**
- We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.
 - First World Problems: focused on things that really don’t matter.

- Did you know that cats can't taste the flavor of sweetness? That's right. Felines cannot taste sweet. It's like their tongues are color blind to sugar. No wonder cats are so grumpy all the time! They can taste sour, bitter, saltiness, and meatiness, but not sweetness. No wonder they are always grumpy.
- "Kyle you are talking about cats in the middle of a worldwide pandemic!"
- having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

Armor

Bagpipes in weddings

Bagpipes were used to lead people into battle.

Bagpipes for infantry

Are you expecting a battle in your marriage? 😊

the Gaelic word *clann* means children

It was common for families to take the surname of a more powerful clan if they needed protection.

Have you considered that last night, while you were asleep, there were brave men and women tirelessly protecting you.

This is not cutesy theology of baptismal bonnets and pretty music.

There is a war **raging** and there is only one way to win,

In the hope of Jesus Christ.

In the 8th installment of the Star Wars saga, Kylo Ren, son of Han Solo & Princess Leia, has embraced the Dark Side of the force and bowed to the power of a Sith Lord named Snoke. Donned in a black robe and helmet like his grandfather Lord Vader, Ren believes he has crushed the rebellion once and for all. But Snoke knows better.

Returning from an apparent victory for the Dark Side, Ren is chastised by his master.

Snoke: "You are no Vader. You're just a child in a mask."

Kylo Ren: "I gave everything I had to you; to the Darkside."

Snoke: "Skywalker lives. The seed of the Jedi lives. As long as he does, hope exists."

Romans 5:3–5 (NRSV) — 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (ESV) — **1** Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4** But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a **helmet the hope** of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.