

Who was Georg Conrad Beissel? What was the Ephrata community?

Georg Conrad Beissel founded the Ephrata Cloister in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.¹ The Ephrata Society, an occult group in the 1700s, taught: celibacy, Sabbath keeping² and baptism for the dead³.

Christians should be sexually moral (Ac 15:20; 1 Thess 4:3) but celibacy (forbidding marriage) is unbiblical (1 Co 9:5, 1 Ti 3:2-4, 4:1-4, Tt 1:5-7).

We do not have a Sabbath *day*--we have a Sabbath *Lord* (Lk 6:5).

It is unscriptural to teach that baptism is indispensable for justification (1 Co 1:17).

¹ *View of History, Theology, and Interpretation: The Ephrata Cloister, a Case Study in Public History | CONCEPT.* concept.journals.villanova.edu/article/view/317/280.

² *"Ephrata Cloister: the Communal Experiment."* Church of the Brethren Network, www.cob-net.org/cloister.htm. Accessed 24 Jan. 2023.

³ "Baptism for the Dead." *InPlainSite.org*, www.inplainsite.org/html/baptism_for_the_dead.html. Accessed 24 Jan. 2023.