

**History of the RPCNA  
Fresno Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Sunday School, October 19, 2014  
Week 7 – Covenanters in the United States (Part II)**

---

- I. Review
- II. Overview of Presbyterianism in USA
- III. RPCNA from 1803 forward
  - a. Political dissent
    - i. Old Light/New Light Split in 1833
    - ii. Explanatory Declaration
    - iii. Christian Amendment Movement
    - iv. Political dissent is made a matter of conscience
  - b. Slavery & Civil Rights
    - i. RPCNA first rejects slavery in 1800
    - ii. RPCNA supports anti-slavery groups and the underground railroad
    - iii. RPCNA and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850
  - c. Alcohol
    - i. RPCNA discourages then forbids alcohol use
    - ii. Alcohol use is made a matter of conscience

**FRPC Sunday School – History of the RPCNA – Quotes for Week 7**

1. “In taking this oath, I make no mental reservation. I am a member of the RPCNA and I declare that I owe a supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ. But in making that declaration, I take the same God as my witness, invoking His assistance to help me to render due obedience to my country in all temporal matters. And I do further declare that I do not now know any matter in which I intend any actual disobedience to any command of my country now known to me.” – Explanatory Declaration
2. “Humbly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Governor among the nations, and his revealed will as the supreme law of the land, in order to constitute a Christian government... We the People...” – Christian Amendment Movement’s proposed revision to the U.S. Constitution
3. “In my first administration, we have met one of the objectives of the covenanters, in that the slaves are freed. It may be that in my second term, that we will accomplish the second objective.” – Abraham Lincoln in meeting with Covenanter ministers
4. “[The Covenanters accepted] a dark view of the American nation: the people had the Constitution that they wanted and deserved. The Covenant of 1871 blamed national sins on the failings of the Constitution; the new chapter 30 of the Testimony blamed the failings of the Constitution on the irreligiosity of the American nation.” – Bill Edgar