Covenant Theology Lesson 3

Why Covenant Theology?

Putting the Bible Together



- Israel and the Church
- The Law and the Christian
- The Sabbath and the Lord's Day
- Circumcision and Baptism

Why Covenant Theology?

What is "Reformed Theology?"



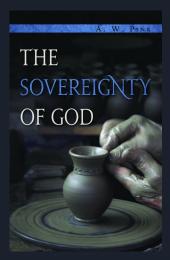
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What is "Reformed Theology?"

TULIP?



The Doctrine of God?



The Law of God?



The Lord's Day?



Infant Baptism?



First London Confession 1644/1646

CONFESSION

Of seven Congregations or Churches of Christ in LONDON, which are commonly (but uniufly) called Anabaptists.

PUBLIS HED

For the vindication of the Truth, and information of the ignorant; likewise for the taking off of those aspersions which are frequently both in Pulpit and Print unjustly cast upon them.

But this I confesse unto thee, that after the way which they call heresie, so worship I the God of my Fathers, believing all things that are written in the Law and the Prophets, and have hope towards God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of dead both of the just

and unjust. Acts 24. 14, 15.
For we cannot but speak the things that we have seen and heard, Acts 4.20.
If I have spoken evill, hear witnesse of the evill; but if well, why smitess thou
me? John 18.23.

Bleffed are yeerwhen men revile you, and say all manner of evill against you falsty for my sake. Rejoyce, orc. Matthi 1.12.& 19.29.

The second Impression corrected and enlarged.

Published according to Order.

London printed by Matth. Simmons, and are to be fold by John Hancock in Popes-head Alley. 1 646.

Spectrum of Views on the Covenants



"We have no itch to clog religion with new words."

 Preface to the Second London Baptist Confession (1677)

To the Reader.

gregational way, we did readily conclude it best to retain the same order in our present confession: and also, when we observed that those last mentioned, did in their confession (for reasons which feemed of weight both to themselves and others) choose not only to express their mind in words concurrent with the former in fense, concerning all those articles wherein they were agreed, but also for the most part without any variation of the terms we did in like manner conclude it best to follow their example in making use of the very same words with them both, in these articles (which are very many) wherein our faith and doctrine is the fame with theirs, and this we did, the more abundantly, to manifest our consent with both, in all the fundamental articles of the Christian Religion, as also with many others, whose orthodox confessions have been published to the world; on the behalf of the Protestance in divers

Nations and Cities: and also to convince all, that we have no itch to clogge Religion with new words, but do readily

acquieice

What are arguments against covenantal baptism of infants?

- We see believers being baptized in the New Testament.
- We see people being *immersed* in water, not sprinkled.
- "Household baptisms" don't clearly include children unable to articulate faith.
- The Bible never links circumcision with baptism directly as a "sign of the covenant."
- Circumcision is fulfilled in a spiritual sense by "circumcision of the heart."
- Paedobaptists are inconsistent in their application. Why not baptize grandchildren or even employees?
- How can one be "in the covenant of grace" but not saved?

"The argument in a nutshell is simply this: God established his Church in the days of Abraham and put children into it. They must remain there until He puts them out. He has nowhere put them out. They are still then members of His church and as such entitled to its ordinances. Among these ordinances is baptism, which standing in similar place in the New Dispensation to circumcision in the Old, is like it to be given to children."

(The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield, Vol. IX, p. 408)

True or False?

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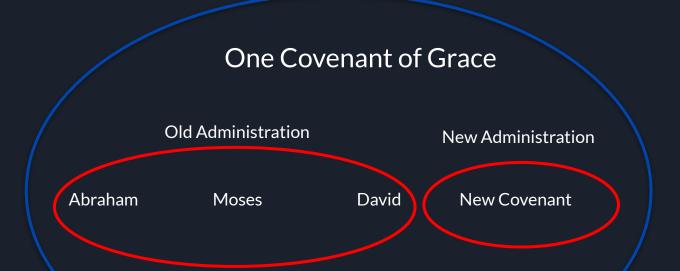
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True or False?

"One substance, two administrations." (WCF 7.6)



The Abrahamic Covenant

- Genesis 12— the covenant promised
- Genesis 15— the covenant "cut"
- Genesis 17— the covenant confirmed and given a seal
- Romans 4:11
- Galatians 3–4

A Baptist Covenantal Response

1. The Administrations are Radically Different

What's new about the new covenant? (Hebrews 8)

"But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises."

- New & better sacrifice
- New & better mediator
- New & better promises
- New & "better" members
- New & better sign

A Baptist Covenantal Response

2. The "Substances" are Different

Covenant of Grace *promised* (Gen 3:15) and "revealed in farther steps."

Old Covenant

Abraham Moses

David

One Covenant of Grace

New Covenant

"1689 Federalism"