

## Federal Vision-the Danger on the Horizon

- Challenges of the Debate:** 1) Not all FV proponents agree with each other in every topic  
 2) The words used sound familiar, but not quite—they are used with different definitions.  
 3) So many Bible doctrines are redefined and perverted when justification is rejected/redefined  
 4) FV proponents claim to be Reformed, and their teachings are faithful to those creeds

WE CAN ONLY DISCUSS A SMALL PART OF THE ERRORS OF FV

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NOT EVERYTHING WRITTEN BY THESE MEN IS OBJECTIONABLE

### 1. What they say

Baptism is a saving ordinance that unites us to all the benefits of Christ. There is no distinction between those who have the inward washing of the Spirit and those who don't.

#### What God hath said, and what His Church hath confessed

Baptism is a sign of God's salvation, yet the external sign should not be confused with its internal reality. (Col. 2:11; Eph. 5:26; 1 John 1:7; 1 Cor. 6:11) (BC, Art. 34; HC #72-73)

### 2. What they say

All baptized people have the same relation to the covenant. All who are on the membership roll also are in vital union with Christ through faith in Him alone. Those who are in union with Christ ("covenantally elect") can lose their position in Christ. Those in union with Christ can lose their position in Christ. The covenantally elect are not all eternally elect.

#### What God hath said, and what His Church hath confessed

Those in union with Christ through faith shall never be lost. They can also be certain that they are predestined to eternal glory, even though our faith is often weak and we continue to sin. All the regenerate in the covenant receive the gift of perseverance, because of the redemptive work of Christ effectually applied by the Spirit of God.

(Jer. 32:40; John 10:28-29; Rom. 2:28-29; 8:28-39; 9:6; 1 Jn 2:19)

(HC #31, 32, 54; BC, Art. 24; Canons of Dort V:1-15)

### 3. What they say

Justification by faith is not a declaration God makes one time in history, by which we are accounted righteous solely on the basis of the imputation of Christ's merits received by faith alone. Justification is contingent on our continued covenant faithfulness.

#### What God hath said, and what His Church hath confessed

Salvation is in NO way based upon what we do, or there would be no hope that any would stand. (Ps. 115:1; Rom. 3:20,24-28; 4:2-5; 8:33; 10:3-4; 1 Cor. 4:7; Phil. 3:9;

Gal. 2:16; Heb. 7:19) (BC, Art. 22-23; HC #60-64)

### Is this all really a big deal?

What is at issue is not semantics, but salvation! A proper covenant perspective (or "federal vision") has been revealed in Scripture and believed and declared by the Church for centuries. We need Christ, all of Christ, and only Christ. Don't look elsewhere, or else.