

# 2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith Study

## Westminster Covenant Theology: Compared

Providence Reformed Baptist Church

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### I. Introduction - A Brief Context

1. Brief Definition
2. Historical Origin of the Westminsterian Model
  - i. Most fully formulated through Calvin after the Middle Ages
  - ii. Further developed through the English and Continental Paedobaptists
  - iii. Codified in the paedobaptist Reformed confessions of the Westminster (1646) and Belgic Confession (1561)
3. Acknowledgement of Variance Among Paedobaptists - Then and Today
  - i. Not all paedobaptists use covenant theology to validate their practice (Methodists, Catholics, Anglicans)
  - ii. Some Presbyterians Treat the Mosaic Distinct from the Abrahamic
4. Reformed Baptists Who Double Dip

### II. The Covenant Theology of the Westminster Confession

1. A Reading
2. Beliefs We Hold Common
  - i. Doctrines of the Covenant of Works
  - ii. The Necessity of the Covenant of Grace for Salvation
  - iii. Substance of the Covenant of Grace is Christ and His Work
3. Where We Differ
  - i. Substance and Administration Distinguished and Separable
  - ii. One Covenant, Many Administrations
  - iii. Administration of the Covenant of Grace Qualitatively Different Across Time

### III. A Brief Rebuttal - Hebrews 8:6

1. The Text
  - i. ESV - 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.
  - ii. NASB - But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.
2. Exegesis
  - i. Greater glory of Christ's priesthood formerly established (Heb 7)
  - ii. Ministry - Defined

- iii. Difference in Glory of Ministries Paralleled to Covenants
  - iv. Reason for New Covenant's Greater Glory: Enacted on Better Promises
  - v. Enacted - Defined
3. Doctrine
- i. The Old Covenant and New Covenant have two different substances
  - ii. The New Covenant is the first and only administration of the Covenant of Grace