

Why We Must Baptize Our Children

Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 27

Genesis 17:1-14; Colossians 2:11, 12 (KJV)

August 30, 2009

Pastor Garry Eriks

Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church

www.hudsonvilleprc.org

Introduction

1. When a child is born to believing parents, it is a requirement of God that this child be baptized.
2. Why must we baptize our children?
3. Baptism is the sign of the covenant that teaches us that God sovereignly saves.

The Important Question

1. The question, "Why are infants also to be baptized?" is important.
 - a. There are those who make infant baptism a matter of preference.
 - b. There are others who deny infant baptism.
2. There are those who believe in infant baptism, but practice it for the wrong reasons.

The Covenantal Basis

1. There is one covenant of God and one covenant people of God and the children of believers are included in the covenant of God.
 - a. God's covenant is the relationship of friendship that He establishes with His people in Jesus Christ.
 - b. Therefore, we must understand there is one covenant of God and one covenant people.
 - c. Proof that children born to believers "are included in the covenant and church of God." (A. 74)
2. On the basis that there is only one covenant of God it follows there is only one sign of the covenant.
 - a. God gave Abraham the sign of circumcision in connection with the establishment of the covenant. *Genesis 17:11*
 - b. Scripture teaches that baptism in the New Testament has the same significance as circumcision in the Old Testament.

The Practical Significance

1. We must view our children according to what God says in His Word.
2. Therefore, they need to be instructed.