

“Paedobaptism in the Hands of Hercules Collins”

OC, Q/A 70–73, GCC

Sunday School, 9/25/22

Introduction

1. We come now to THE most edited section in the whole Orthodox Catechism, the matter of baptism. Collins had to completely revamp this section to fit:
 - a. A Baptist understanding of Covenant Theology
 - b. A Baptist understanding of sacramentology (i.e., baptism)
 - c. A Baptist understanding of redemptive-history
 - d. A Baptist understanding of hermeneutics

2. This is an *emotional* issue
3. This issue is important because it is about *the identity of the church*

- I. The *Hermeneutical* Reason why Infants Should not be Baptized (Q/A70–71)
Here we see three hermeneutical reasons why we should reject infant baptism. Notice that each of these three reasons tell us something about the hermeneutic of the Particular Baptists.
 - A. No command [precept] (Q/A 70) *in book of God*

 - B. No example (Q/A 70)

 - C. Unnecessary to find a *prohibition against it* (Q/A 71)

- II. Covenantal Reasons why we should not baptize infants
 - A. **The Rationale of the Paedobaptist**

 - B. Hercules Collin’s Answer
 1. The problem with defining the members of the Covenant of Grace *absolutely* (Q/A 73, paragraph 1)

 2. The problem with defining the members of the Covenant of Grace *conditionally* by faith (Q/A 73, paragraph 2)

 3. The example of Lot (Q/A 73, paragraph 3)

 4. The Inconsistency of extending baptism but not the Lord’s Supper to Infants (Q/A 73, paragraph 3)

 5. Excurses on the theological possibility of infant salvation

6. The Dichotomous Nature of the Abrahamic Covenant as the answer to the Paedobaptist Half-Way House (Q/A 73, paragraphs 4 and 5)

