

**Baptism Part 6:
A Biblical Consideration of the Reformed Covenantal Argument
for Infant Baptism (RCA)**

I. Summary of the RCA:

“One covenant of grace with one covenant people (which includes their infant offspring) who receive the covenant signs.”

Reformed paedobaptists have different takes on the spiritual status of “covenant children, but most would agree that...

- 1) Being in the covenant doesn't guarantee that someone is elect
- 2) Being in the covenant doesn't guarantee that someone is regenerate
- 3) Being in the covenant doesn't guarantee that someone will persevere in faith until the end
- 4) The new covenant church is therefore a 'mixed community' of elect and non-elect, regenerate and unregenerate, covenant-keepers and covenant-breakers.

II. Seven Areas of Agreement between Reformed Paedobaptists and Reformed Baptists: both sides agree that...

1. There is a unity to all God's covenants.
2. God revealed his covenant of grace progressively.
3. The new covenant has both continuity and discontinuity with previous covenants.
4. We can never have 100% certainty that the person we're baptizing is truly a believer.
5. The visible church contains unregenerate members, and expecting a completely pure church in this age would be unrealistic (i.e. an over-realized eschatology).
6. Warnings are a means that God uses to keep his covenant people from falling
7. Christian parents are commanded to raise their children in the nurture of the Lord.

III. The Main Disagreement: The Nature of the New Covenant (and the Amount of Discontinuity with Previous Covenants)—

An examination of **Jeremiah 31:31–34**.

- 1) The new covenant is made with Israel and Judah (i.e. one covenant people)
- 2) It's not like the Mosaic covenant.

- 3) The area of discontinuity is that *all new covenant members know the Lord, have the law written on their hearts, and have their sins forgiven*. This is the distinguishing mark of the new covenant. And...
- 4) Contra Richard Pratt, the Apostle John sees this as part of the *already* of the new covenant, not simply the *not yet* (see. 1 John 2:26–27; 19)

Works Cited:

Richard Pratt, “Infant Baptism in the New Covenant,” in *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*, edited by Gregg Strawbridge

Jeffery Neill, “The Newness of the New Covenant,” in *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*, edited by Gregg Strawbridge