

Living as God's People

LESSON 5: LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE WITH COMMON COMMITMENTS

BIG IDEA: Living as God's People Means Having Common Beliefs.

I. COMMITTED TO _____ (SOLA SCRIPTURA)- NON-NEGOTIABLE
Roman Catholic Church

Authority Reformation
Anabaptists

2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. ... 4 I also will choose harsh treatment for them and bring their fears upon them, because when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, they did not listen; but they did what was evil in my eyes and chose that in which I did not delight." ISAIAH 66

- God's Word has authority because it is _____ Word.
• He has _____, and He speaks with _____.
• To tremble is to _____ God's authority. He blesses those who _____ to His authority.
• He _____ those who reject His authority and do what they want to do.

"The Word of God is not a trifle; it is a matter of life and death. If you treat the Scripture as a trifle, you forfeit life." JOHN PIPER

The Place of Creeds- The obvious question is: why do we have creeds and confessions? Creeds are summaries of the teaching of Scripture. They guide our teaching and practice. But Scripture is the authority. When a creed or confession disagrees with Scripture, it should be changed to agree with Scripture. Scripture judges our opinions- our opinions are not to judge Scripture.

"If any man say, that his only rule of faith is the Bible, every man who believes the Bible to be the Word of God will agree in this sentiment; but still the question returns, 'What do you understand the Bible to teach?'"
"Thus a Confession of Faith is not the very voice of divine truth, but the echo of that voice from souls that have heard its utterance, felt its power, and are answering it's call. ... a Church cannot adequately discharge its duty to God, the world, and to its own members, without a Confession of Faith." ROBERT SHAW

II. COMMITTED TO KEEPING _____ AS THE CENTER- NON-NEGOTIABLE

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. COLOSSIANS 1

- All things exist _____ of Jesus, and _____ Jesus.
• True understanding of _____ and _____ begins with understanding God.

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 CORINTHIANS 10

- Since we exist for God, our _____ should bring Him _____.
• What matters, is not what pleases _____, but what pleases _____.

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“God’s own glory is uppermost in his own affections. In everything he does, his purpose is to preserve and display that glory.”

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In Review

What is man’s chief end?

Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (WSC, 1)

III. COMMITTED TO GOD’S _____ (SOLI DEO GLORIA)- NON-NEGOTIABLE

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **EPHESIANS 1**

- God is sovereign; He has the _____ and _____ to rule and control all things.
- God is sovereign, has control, over _____.
- God exerts his authority and power over _____ events to accomplish His _____.
- God’s ultimate goal in this is to bring _____ to his name.

Open Theism ← → Arminianism ← → Reformed Theology ← → Fatalism

“God governs the world with glory precisely that he might be admired, marveled at, exalted and praised.”

JOHN PIPER

“For the truth is that God in his wisdom, to make and keep us humble and to teach us to walk by faith, has hidden from us almost everything that we should like to know about the providential purposes which he is working out in the churches and in our own lives.”

J.I. PACKER

In Review

What are the decrees of God?

The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. (WSC, 7)

What are God’s acts of providence?

God’s works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions. (WSC, 11)

IV. COMMITTED TO THE GOD OF GRACE (SOLA GRATIA)- NON-NEGOTIABLE

Roman Catholic Church

How are we saved?

Reformers

In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the

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praise of **his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the **riches of his grace**, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ... **EPHESIANS 1**

- _____, salvation, _____ and forgiveness are expressions of God's _____.
- God gives grace only in _____.
- God _____ his children with grace to bring glory to his name.

Saving Grace-

Common Grace- "any _____ of God that does not _____ a person from sin."¹

In Review

Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer. (WSC, 20)

What is adoption?

Adoption is an act of God's free grace, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have his name put upon them, the Spirit of his Son given to them, are under his fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory. (WLC, 74)

V. COMMITTED TO THE COVENANT

Non-Negotiable:

1. Covenants are taught in Scripture.
2. Covenant headship is essential to explaining our fall in Adam, & salvation in Jesus (Rom. 5).

Negotiable: Covenant Theology as a system of Bible Interpretation

³¹"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make **a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah**, ³²**not like the covenant** that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke**, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³**For this is the covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And **I will be their God, and they shall be my people**. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." **JEREMIAH 31**

- God regulates his _____ with people by _____.
- The covenant contains both _____ and _____.
- By faith we _____ the promises and _____ the obligations.
- The Old Covenant was weak, being _____. It was _____ by the Israelites.
- The New Covenant is _____. He changes our _____ so we'll keep the covenant.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal

¹ Frame, John. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord*. Phillipsburg, P & R Publishing. 2006. pp. 112.

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inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. **HEBREWS 9**

- The Old and New Covenants are _____.
- In the New Covenant, Jesus _____ what the Old Covenant _____.
- Jesus died so we'd be _____ for the sins we committed, breaking the Old Covenant.

In Review

Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the Covenant of Grace; whereby he freely offers to sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved; and promising to give to all those what are ordained to life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe. (WCF, VII, III)

VI. COMMITTED TO INFANT BAPTISM- NEGOTIABLE

¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. **GENESIS 17**

- The sign of the covenant (Abrahamic) was _____.
- Male children of Israelite _____ were to be circumcised.
- Circumcision did not mean they were _____. It was a sign of _____ we are saved.

Objective ←=====→ Subjective
 Justified by Faith Mission Context
(Abraham & Gentile Converts)

Children of Believers

¹¹He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ... **ROMANS 4**

- Abraham was circumcised because he had _____.
- Circumcision was a sign that his descendants are _____ by faith, just like baptism.
- It was a sign of the _____, not the _____!

¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. **COLOSSIANS 2**

- _____ and circumcision reveal the _____ things.
- They both represent the change of _____ only _____ can produce.
- We were truly _____ in our _____ when we turned to God in faith.
- They understood that _____ of believers would also be baptized into the covenant community (just like Abraham).
- Our children are not saved; they must _____ the Good News to receive the promises contained in baptism

In Review

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To whom is baptism to be administered?

Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized. (WSC, 95)

COMPARISON OF MAJOR THEOLOGIES

	Roman Catholicism	Lutheranism	Arminianism (Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal)	Reformed Theology
Authority	Scripture and Tradition equal	Scripture alone (creeds as summary)	Scripture (creeds often rejected)	Scripture alone (creeds as summary)
Starting Place	Church-centered	God-centered	Man-centered	God-centered
Sovereignty	With limits	With fewer limits	With limits (esp. salvation)	Total sovereignty
Salvation	Through the sacraments (faith plus works)	By grace alone	Faith is a work, not a gift	Salvation by Grace in Christ
Theological system	-	Contrast of Old and New Covenants	Dispensational Theology	Covenant Theology
Baptism	Baptismal regeneration	Almost baptismal regeneration	Mixed bag	Infant baptism (covenantal view)

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

- We live as God's people by understanding, believing and applying God's _____.
- We live as God's people by _____ what God wants is more important than what we want.
- We live as God's people by _____ to God's will instead of our will.
- We live as God's people by teaching, _____ and applying God's _____.
- We live as God's people by viewing our relationship through the eyes of God's _____.
- We live as God's people by _____ God to keep His _____.
- We live as God's people by _____ obeying our covenant _____.
- We live as God's people by applying God's covenant _____ to believers and their children.

**LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS BEING OF _____ MIND ON
_____ BELIEFS**