

# MEMO

To: ACC Scripture Class  
From: Tim  
Re: Covenant Theology  
Date: January 23, 2008

Several of you have asked me about the tenets of Covenant/Reformed Theology so here's some brief information to bring you up to speed.

I agree with their theology to the degree that I am "reformational" (e.g., Martin Luther is one of my heroes) and I am Calvinistic in theology (4 out of 5 points; by the way, it is by no means clear that John Calvin was a "5-pointer" himself.).

However, I depart from them in at least two major areas:

1. Their disregard for the literal future fulfillment of the covenant promises God made to Israel. They believe that the Jews (as a people group, not individually) have been rejected by God and that all the OT promises are now being fulfilled in the Church. They must therefore allegorize many of the yet future prophecies God made to Israel. This, I believe, is an insult to the veracity of God and the already historically demonstrated particularity of fulfilled prophecy.
2. Baptism of infants as a sign of the covenant (i.e., baptism of infants is the continuation of the OT covenant sign of circumcision).

Sections in our ACC Statement of Faith with which a Covenant/Reformed theologian would disagree:

- E. 1. Our definition of the Universal Church
- E. 8. a. Baptism only for believers (by implication excluding infants)
- F. 2. The Pre-Tribulational Rapture
- F. 5. Fulfillment of God's promises to Israel, spiritually **and** nationally

See *Moody Handbook of Theology*, By Paul Enns, 1989, pp. 503-526, that encapsulates the differences between Covenant and Dispensational Theology and fairly explains them both.

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