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## **Special Seminar: Baptism and Lord's Supper in the PCA**

### **I. Covenant Community**

*Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."*

*Exodus 6:7 - 7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.*

### **II. Covenant Signs**

#### **1) Old Testament**

##### **1) Circumcision**

*Genesis 17:7, 10 - 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you...10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.*

##### **2) Passover**

*Exodus 12:24, 27 - 24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ... 27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.*

#### **2) New Testament**

##### **1) Baptism**

*Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

##### **2) Lord's Supper**

*Luke 22:7 - 7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed...19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

**III. Spectrum of Views**

	<b><u>Baptism</u></b>	<b><u>Baptism meaning</u></b>	<b><u>Lord's Supper</u></b>	<b><u>Lord's Supper meaning</u></b>
<b><u>Orthodox</u></b>	<b>Believers + Children</b>	<b>Believers + Children</b> - Baptismal regeneration (Baptism makes you born again)	<b>Believers + Children</b>	Transubstantiation (truly becomes the Body and Blood of Christ)
<b><u>Catholic</u></b>	<b>Believers + Children</b>	<b>Believers + Children</b> - Baptismal regeneration (Baptism makes you born again)	<b>Believers only</b>	Transubstantiation (truly becomes the Body and Blood of Christ)
<b><u>Protestant - Covenantal</u></b>	<b>Believers + Children</b>	<b>Believers</b> - an outward sign applied to those born again  <b>Children</b> - an outward sign applied to those we hope will be born again	<b>Believers only</b>	Spiritual Presence (Christ is spiritually present to nourish through the elements of Bread and Wine)
<b><u>Protestant - Baptist</u></b>	<b>Believers only</b>	<b>Believers</b> - an outward sign applied to those born again  <b>Children</b> - should not receive baptism until they are born again	<b>Believers only</b>	Memorial meal to remember Christ's sacrifice

## IV. Support for the Protestant - Covenantal View

### 1. Continuity from the OT to NT of how God sees His “covenant people”

Genesis 17:7, 10 - 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you...10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Acts 2:28-39 - 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

### 2. Consider the Baptisms in the New Testament

1) Verses where it seems baptism only follows professed faith (adult baptism)

- **The 3,000+ souls in Jerusalem** - Acts 2:41 - 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
- **Believers of the city of Samaria** - Acts 8:12 - 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- **Simon (the sorcerer)** - Acts 8:13 - 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.
- **The Ethiopian eunuch** - Acts 8:27–37 - 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.
- **Saul of Tarsus** - Acts 9:18 - 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;
- **The disciples of John in Ephesus** - Acts 19:4-5 - 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

2) Verses where it is possible where the believers and children were baptized

- **Cornelius and unnamed members of his household** - Acts 10:30-47 - 47 “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.
- **Lydia and the members of the household** - Acts 16:15 - 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.
- **The Philippian jailer and members of his household** - Acts 16:32-33 - 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.
- **Crispus and members of his household** - Acts 18:8 - 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.
- **Crispus, Gaius, household of Stephanas** - 1 Corinthians 1:14-16 - 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

### 3. Consider the mode of baptism

### 4. Consider the historical practice of Baptism

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**V. Practical issues for Joy of All Nations****1. As a PCA church we believe and advocate our view of baptism**

Practical questions:

1. Do you have children you would consider to have baptized?
2. Do you have children you would want to have confirmed to come to the Table?

**2. We are open-hearted and do invite to membership and serving those with a different view of baptism**

Practical question:

1. Do you have children you would want to have baptized and confirmed to come to the Table?

**3. Elders and potentially other important leadership roles would be reserved for those who hold our view of baptism**