

Sovereign Grace Church
Covenant Baptism outline
July 23, 2017

Matthew 28: 16-20; Acts 2: 38-39

We are blessed today to participate in the covenant baptism of Felicity Margaret Sents. We have been blessed to celebrate the sacraments of baptism quite regularly in our church. It is always useful during these times to remind ourselves of the teaching & significance of this ordinance, for our own sakes as well as for the parents of the one baptized.

Most all of us here today have been baptized, some as adults, most as infants. It is important to stir up our memories of this important event for there is nothing magical about it. It's value rests upon a living faith in the recipient which, in the elect, flow from the gracious promises of our Lord. This morning we will seek again to remind ourselves of the meaning and significance of this covenantal sacrament, that our faith may be strengthened and our lives increasingly blessed.

1. What is baptism?

- **Main Idea: Union with Christ**
Rom. 6: 4-5; 6:11

Defilement of Sin Titus 3:5

Guilt of Sin Acts 2: 38

2. Why do we baptize children?

- **God commands it. Col. 2: 11-12**

- **Children need salvation too. Rom. 6:23**

- **God's Promise Acts 2: 38-39**

3. **The significance of baptism as a covenantal ordinance**
Gen. 17:7; 18:19

Our Call: to live covenantally in a non-covenantal age

- **Covenant of Grace: God's Declaration of War on Sin**
Gen. 3:15; Rev 7:9; 21:1-2

- **Covenant Church: a church centered on following Christ in battling sin and advancing His victory in our time and place.**
Matt. 16:18

Individuals vs. individualism

Our Present Challenges:

- **It is a foreign concept, even in the church.**

- **It is a necessary concept for the revival of righteous freedom.**

- **It requires a Faith which Acts. Eph. 2: 10**

Summary

Our baptism is a sign/seal of our ownership by Christ; covenant membership is a vow to follow Christ in the context of this particular church.

Covenant baptism/membership leads to covenant churches which seek to live self-consciously, as individuals, families & churches, against the world and unto Christ as Savior and Lord of all of life. There is NO neutral ground in His kingdom. Rev. 2: 7