

Semper Reformanda – Part 4

“New Covenant Theology and the People of God”

March 18, 2007

- The Origin of the Church in Evangelical Theology
 1. Covenant Theology: “...the church existed in the old dispensation as in the new, and was essentially the same in both ...” L. Berkhoff, Systematic Theology, p.571
 2. Dispensational Theology: The church “was something unknown in the OT times; it is a distinct entity in this present age” C. Ryrie, Dispensationalism Today, p.135
 3. Covenant Theology: The believing elect of the OT is constituted the church on the day of Pentecost. G. Ladd, New Testament Theology, pp 236-243.
- The Church in continuity with the OT people of God
 1. OT term for “assembly” (Heb. *Qahal*) in LXX is “church” (Gk. *ekklesia*) – Dt. 23:1-3; 1 Chr. 28:8
 2. Identical method of salvation in both OT and NT – Gen. 15:6 in Rom. 4:1-3, 22-25.
 3. Church as the “Seed of Abraham” – Gen. 12:1-3 in Gal. 3:28-29
 4. Church as the “People of God” – Ex. 19:5 in 1 Pe. 2:9; Hos. 1:10-11 in Rom. 9:24
 5. Church as the “Israel of God” – Gal. 6:16; Rom. 11:16-21; Phil. 3:3
- The Church in discontinuity with the OT people of God
 1. The Church is yet future in the ministry of Jesus – Mt. 16:16-19; Eph. 2:19-20
 2. The Church as the “body of Christ” created after the resurrection – Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 1:5; 2:4; 11:15-16
 3. The Church as the “temple of the Holy Spirit” created after the resurrection – Jn. 1:22; 2:19-21; 7:37-39; Eph. 2:19-22
 4. The Church as the “new man” created after the cross and resurrection – Eph. 2:13-16; 2 Cor. 5:17

Theological Conclusions

1. There has only been one people of God, the elected, saved the same way, by grace through faith in Christ, through out all of redemptive history (Heb. 11:39-40).
2. The NT church is the continuation and maturation of the believing remnant of OT Israel (Isa. 40:11; Lk. 12:32; Jn. 10:16).
3. The NT church is the new eschatological people of God created by the work of Christ and the out pouring of the Holy Spirit, and thus is not to be read back into the OT (Eph. 3:4-10; Col. 1:24-27)