

What is Reformed Theology?

Predestination and Infants

Introduction

What happens to a baby or a person who is mentally unable to understand and respond to the Gospel, when they die?

The Common Views about infants who die in infancy¹

Age of accountability:

Sentimentality:

All infants who die in infancy are elect

Children of believers are elect/children of unbelievers???

Some infants are elect, others are not

Baptized infants go to heaven/unbaptized don't (variations)

Children of believers go to heaven/children of unbelievers do not

Agnostic view;

"Although Christian charity commands us to cherish a good hope concerning their salvation, still we cannot certainly determine that every single one belongs to the election of God, but leave it to the secret counsel and supreme liberty of God." Francis Turretin

Truths to Consider

1. The Bible does not teach an age of accountability and prior state of innocence, but rather an age of moral awareness.
Deut. 1:35, 39; Isa. 7:15-16; Rom. 7:7-10
2. The biblical doctrine of original sin teaches that every human being is conceived and born in sin because of Adam.
Psa. 51:5; 58:3; 143:2; Rom. 3:10; 5:12;
3. The Bible also teaches that anyone who is saved is saved by the electing grace of God and application of Christ's work, granting them the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of righteousness.
4. The Bible does not explicitly address this subject. That should cause us to be cautious, but nevertheless, we can go to Scripture and draw good inferences and implications.

¹ I will use this as shorthand for infants and those who have mental incapacities which would preclude them from understanding the Gospel.

