

Lesson Three: PCA Distinctives

Goals and reminders for the day

- **The goal** for this lesson is to give a brief synopsis of PCA doctrinal distinctives, NOT to give an in-depth study of any particular doctrine in this lesson.
- Theological triage and tiers of importance
 - o You do not have to believe all of these to join or worship here. But these topics will be taught in this church.

Reformed Theology

The reformation

- The break from the corrupted Roman Catholic Church
- Not the creation of these doctrines, but the recovery of them.

Five Solas

- Sola Fide (Faith alone)
- Sola Gratia (Grace alone)
- Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone)
- Solus Christus (Christ alone)
- Soli Deo Gloria (God's glory alone)

Specific Doctrines of Note

- The goal of this section is not to argue any point in specific detail or give you all of the information. The goal is for you to have a basic understanding of the PCA view on these things.

Covenant (WCF 7)

- A covenant is "a bond in blood, sovereignly administered" – Palmer O Robertson
 - o God relates to humans only through covenant.
- There are two primary covenants
 - o **The covenant of works** requires perfect obedience to God's law. Only XP could fulfill.
 - o **The covenant of grace** requires faith in Jesus, who fulfilled the covenant of works and imputes his righteousness to you.
 - The covenant of grace includes all the OT covenants within it (Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic), which were to teach God's people over time.

Predestination (WCF 3)

- *Doctrines of Grace* (Rom. 8:28-30)
 - Total Depravity (Rom. 3:10-12; Eph. 2:1-2)
 - Unconditional Election (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - Limited Atonement (Rom. 9:14-16, 21-23)
 - Irresistible Grace (John 6:37; 15:16)
 - Preservation of the Saints (John 6:39; Phil. 1:6)

Baptism (WCF 28)

- Who do we baptize? (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - Paedobaptism (Matt. 19:13-15; Acts 2:38-39; 16:15)
 - Not a circumcision replacement, but fulfillment.
 - Credobaptism
- Mode: See WCF 28.3
 - Immersion
 - Pouring (Matt. 3:11)
 - Sprinkling (Heb. 9:13, 19-22)

Communion and the manner of Christ's presence (WCF 29)

- Four primary views
 - Transubstantiation (Catholic)
 - Consubstantiation (Catholic light)
 - Zwinglian (memorial)
 - Spiritual presence