

# 1. The LORD GOD BINDS HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE AND THEIR CHILDREN BY COVENANT

☰☰ Covenants Genesis 8/9, 12, 15, 17

☑ Meaning of LORD/Yahweh

☑ Def. of Covenant "Bond of blood sovereignly administered"

☑ Gen 17:1-4 ... "to be  $\Theta$  to you and your offspring after you."

☑ Covenant sign  $\blacktriangleright$  circumcision

Mean? Application?  $\Theta$  makes a claim on the children of his people, "they are mine." He places His sign on them and envelops them in the community of his people. He is not passive, apathetic, withdrawn, etc. but committed to them  
(vs) "extreme individualism" + "extreme relativism"

## 2. GOD'S COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE CREATES THE NURTURE PARADIGM WE SEE IN SCRIPTURE. "You were not my people," Nathan P.

☑ Children are a gift of  $\Theta$ 's grace Abraham a blessing from  $\Theta$ , and belong to  $\Theta$ .

☑ Parents are entrusted with children are called to nurture them in repentance + faith, love of  $\Theta$ , obedience to  $\Theta$ , worship of  $\Theta$ . Dt. 6:4ff

## 3 Covenant Parenting Why?

1.  $\Theta$  has blessed us w many babies, youth ...
2. Two powerful ideologies undermine the Bible's teaching of "Christian Nurture" Bushnell  
(1) extreme relativism + (2) extreme individualism
3. As Pastor, make best Biblical case for infant baptism

Singles... chopped liver? No! Rich theology of  $\Theta$ 's Covenant, etc. very relevant for you today.

5 Biblical Arguments {  
① The Model  
② The Dynamic  
③ The Leaders  
④ The Sign  
⑤ The Mission

### ① ARGUMENT #1: The Model of Covenant Parenting

THE LORD GOD BINDS HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE AND THEIR CHILDREN BY COVENANT. GOD'S COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE CREATES THE NURTURE PARADIGM WE SEE IN SCRIPTURE. THIS PARADIGM IS NOT REVOKED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, ~~WITH JESUS' DEATH~~ BUT RATHER REINFORCED WITH JESUS CHRIST RATIFYING THE NEW COVENANT BY HIS BLOOD. CHRISTIAN PARENTS SHOULD NURTURE REPENTANCE, FAITH, OBEDIENCE + WORSHIP IN THEIR CHILDREN IN LIGHT OF THE COVENANT

→ vs. West's individualism + autonomy only 1/2 true vs. secular ideology of relativism, which is based on faith

Following Fanny

5. CHRISTIAN PARENTS SHOULD NURTURE REPENTANCE, FAITH, OBEDIENCE, WORSHIP IN THEIR CHILDREN IN LIGHT OF THE COVENANT, Jesus **blood**

(1) Stay-in-committed relationship to your kids as  $\Theta$  has stayed committed to you, fought for you, sacrificed for you, etc. **Song**

(2) In covenant, give your kids space to grow, mature in faith, knowing they belong to  $\Theta$ . **Like soap**

(3) In covenant, fight for  $\heartsuit$  of your child, youth, grown adult... **"my son, give me your heart"**, your kids for  $\Theta$ 's glory!

both  
and

**Application** Christian parents should have great confidence in  $\Theta$ 's Covenant to children,  $\Theta$ 's promises to Children, expect  $\Theta$ 's grace for children and so nurture faith, worship, service from earliest days... **"Our Father"...** **Bushnell's Covenant Nurture paradigm**

**But isn't this approach revoked in NT? No!**

3. THIS PARADIGM IS NOT REVOKED IN THE NT, BUT RATHER REINFORCED, WITH JESUS CHRIST RATIFYING THE NEW COVENANT BY HIS BLOOD

☑ The promises + covenants are consummated and fulfilled by Jesus Christ. The New Covenant in His blood creates new community of Spirit, w. Gentiles "grafted in" ► **Jesus who was raised in Covenant home by covenant nurture was cut off  $\dagger$  so that you + your children could be brought in.**

☑ Circumcision is revoked as the sign of  $\Theta$ 's covenant people; baptism - much more inclusive - replaces it **Colossians 2:11-12**

☑ Rather than changing His attitude + approach to the children of His people we see them baptized as part of whole households (**Acts 16:25ff**), viewed as holy b/c of believing parent (**1Cor 7:12ff**), and included as saints in the church community. (**Ephesians 1:1 ► 6:1-3**)