

YES, BUT... We are NT Christians, circumcision is no longer identity marker! Plus I go by what Jesus + Apostle Paul command "believe and be baptized..." In response...

- ☑ Everyone agrees that adult converts should be B!
- ☑ Question is whether or not Θ changes the way he relates to the children of His cov. people

☰☰ In all NT/Colossians we see that the children of believers are included in the status of Θ 's Holy people (saints, 1:1), are recipients of Θ 's gospel (1:3-8) and Paul's prayers (1:9-12), have been rescued from the dominion of darkness + transferred to the Kingdom of Christ (1:13-14) and are members of the body of Christ (1:15ff). We also see that they are included among those who have experienced the "circumcision of Christ" (2:11), the sign of which is baptism, i.e. they are assumed to be Christians. In light of this they are to obey their parents ~~with the LORD~~ "for this pleases the LORD" (3:20).

➡ There is absolutely no indication that any children of believers, from infancy to youth, should be excluded from Θ 's covenant people or the sign that marks their belonging, baptism; and every indication of their welcome language of household

3 Covenant nurture ▶ Make Biblical case for infant baptism
Secular = nothing in this for me; I don't even believe in Θ . Model a community of "unity in essentials (Scripture), diversity in non-essentials, and in all things charity."

Believer only Baptism = open \heartsuit to consider WCF 28.5 says "although it be a great sin to condemn or neglect this ordinance" [of infant baptism]... our story

☰☰ At the end of the day the Biblical case for infant/Believers only baptism is inferential, so "first point is to establish where the burden of proof lies"
Jack Collins... John Frame

CASE

1. Θ binds Himself to His people and their children by covenant; Gen 17... Θ gives circumcision as the sign of His covenant. It symbolizes and seals that Θ and His promises are theirs and they belong to Him. In response they are to trust, love, obey, worship + serve Him.
- ➡ Children are embraced in Θ 's covenant, the sign effects their belonging to Θ 's people, so Θ is angry w. Moses when he neglects circumcision
2. Θ 's Covenant places His Name on His people and they - as whole families - are to worship, serve and glorify Him for the good of all nations. But Θ 's covenant people often functionally serve and worship idols and so are called to repentance + faith Jer 7
3. Parents are to lead their ~~whole~~ children to know, love, worship + serve Θ Proverbs 4 26:11
Language of "you + your household" Gen 7:1, Dt. 14:26, 15:20

BREATHE... Let's talk PROBLEMS and SOLUTIONS

PROBLEM #1 = FREE WILL

"Doesn't this impose my will + my beliefs on my children? I want my kids to choose Jesus freely."

SOLUTION

- ☑ good value of individual autonomy + freedom must be balanced by Biblical solidarity + responsibility
- ☑ after all, you don't make that argument when you give your infant every good thing you can, like a home, food, love, etc.
- ☑ Nothing is a greater good than to be a member of God's covenant people, to bear His name, have His promises, know His embrace, etc. Why would you exclude your child from this greatest good if God doesn't?
- ☑ But how to also uphold freedom? = In the Covenant, your child is called to personally have faith, repentance, love for God like all God's people are!

PROBLEM #2 = SOCIAL PRESSURE

"No one baptizes their babies but Catholics, liberal churches, etc."

SOLUTION = Step back and see the vast majority of God's people from OT ► NT saints, to early church Polycarp, to Catholic + Protestant + Reformed churches + Orthodox Churches... **Howie**
CONSIDER