

Declaration of Doctrine and Policy of Unity and Charity on Baptism

Due to our ultimate unity in Christ and because of our unity in so many areas of the faith, we will not refuse to commune or refuse to jointly pursue the great commission because of differences between the credobaptist and paedobaptist positions. Further, eligibility for the station of elder will not hinge on a particular position on this topic. This is not to say that this is not an important issue, or that this topic is something to be avoided. Further, in full humility and transparency we affirm that it is true that one of these positions is in error and is therefore sinful by either withholding baptism where it should be administered, or for administering baptism where it should be withheld. The long term vision is that the congregation (and the universal catholic church as a whole) would arrive at one position or the other. But because differences do exist among brothers on this issue, we will not divide over the issue of baptism. We seek God's mercy and the Spirit's leading in pursuing greater and greater holiness and fidelity to his commands.

In the meantime, we commit ourselves to winsomeness and charity in all discussions on this issue. This being grounded in the recognition that both sides are seeking to understand and obey the scriptures regardless of our traditions. We can jointly affirm that we are to yearn and pray for the regeneration of our children, disciple our children in the faith and look for the fruit of authentic repentance. We jointly affirm that God continues to work by and through households in the New Covenant (including children who are considered holy and set apart by virtue of their belonging to a covenant family (1 Cor 7:14).

In unity, Sovereign King Church affirms that:

1. Baptism is a sign and seal of the Covenant of Grace. Baptism however is not a mechanical act that regenerates. Baptismal regeneration is unbiblical and Sovereign Church stands strongly opposed to it.
2. Regeneration is necessary for salvation. One must be born again by the Father through the Holy Spirit according to the work of Christ. No matter if one is baptized as an infant or an adult, they must be born again and have faith in Christ. Salvation is a work of grace through faith.
3. The issue of mode or the recipient of baptism does not have to unnecessarily divide brothers in Christ. Both credobaptists and paedobaptists can and should work together for the advancement of the kingdom. Sovereign King Church is committed to the principle of charity on this issue.
4. Covenant theology is the biblical and correct way of understanding the bible. We deny that Dispensationalism, New Covenant Theology, or what is often called Progressive Covenantalism are biblically true systems of hermeneutics.
5. God generally works through head of households to convert their households.
6. Children are a vital part of a church. They should be raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord.