IRS Institute *for* Reformation Studies

"Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set." (Prov. 22:28)

Class Syllabus: Reformed Covenant Theology

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Description

This seven-week course introduces the basics of Covenant Theology, with a special focus on why Reformed Christians baptize the children of believers. We will look at what the Bible teaches about God's covenant with his people and why that covenant is central to understanding the Christian faith.

No previous theological training is required. Each class will include a presentation of the material followed by time for questions and discussion. Bring your Bible, come ready to learn, and feel free to ask questions.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Learn two basic principles for understanding the Bible from a Reformed perspective.
- Understand how God's people in the Old Testament are connected to God's people in the New Testament.
- Understand how the sacraments of the Old and New Testaments are connected.
- Understand what the Bible teaches about paedobaptism and why Reformed Christians baptize the children of believers.

Schedule

Classes are held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., running from November 7 through December 19, 2026.

Week	Topic
Week 1, November 7, 2026	*Two Principles of Biblical Interpretation*
Week 2, November 14, 2026	*The Structure and Unity of God's People, Pt. 1*
Week 3, November 21, 2026	*The Structure and Unity of God's People, Pt. 2*
Week 4, November 28, 2026	*The Spiritual Continuity of the Sacraments, Pt. 1*
Week 5, December 5, 2026	*The Spiritual Continuity of the Sacraments, Pt. 2*
Week 6, December 12, 2026	*Paedobaptism: Positive Case & Objections, Pt. 1*
Week 7, December 19, 2026	*Paedobaptism: Positive Case & Objections, Pt. 2*

Related Courses

A companion course to this class is *Studies in Covenant Communion*. This course explores the biblical case for paedocommunion, the practice of welcoming covenant children to the Lord's Table. We will consider how the Bible's teaching about covenant children shapes their place in the worship and sacramental life of the church.

We will examine the Old Testament feast days, especially Passover, and consider how they point forward to the Lord's Supper. We will also work carefully through 1 Corinthians 10 and 11, looking at Paul's teaching about the one bread and one body, his use of Old Testament examples, and his instructions about discerning the Lord's body and examining oneself. We will also address some of the common objections to paedocommunion.