

Hermeneutics – Continuity & Discontinuity

“In response to the Socinian dichotomy, the reformed put a predominant emphasis on the unity and continuity of the Covenant of Grace from the proto-gospel to its full accomplishment in the death and resurrection of Christ. This is how the main biblical covenants were unified and how the notion of discontinuity in the divine plan was largely discarded.”

— Pascal Denault, *The Distinctiveness of Baptist Covenant Theology*, 2014, 48.

“As soon as an author or a group questioned the organic uniformity of the Covenant of Grace, he was categorized with the Socinians, the Anabaptists and the Arminians.”

— Pascal Denault, *The Distinctiveness of Baptist Covenant Theology*, 2014, 48.

“Not only did the distinction between the substance and circumstance allow the Presbyterians to affirm the unity of the Covenant of Grace without denying the divergences between the testaments, but it also allowed them to justify the mixed nature of the people of God (made up of both regenerate and the non-regenerate) within the Covenant of Grace; which is even more fundamental to paedobaptism. By distinguishing the substance from the administration, the paedobaptists could consider a place for the non-chosen within the Covenant of Grace and thereby make a place for the natural posterity of believers. The external administration of the Covenant of Grace would, therefore, contain the regenerate and the non-regenerate, while its internal substance would only contain the regenerate. This is how, by distinguishing between the internal substance and the external administration, the paedobaptists justified the mixed nature of the Covenant of Grace.”

— Pascal Denault, *The Distinctiveness of Baptist Covenant Theology*, 2014, 51.

Here are some examples of discontinuity in the bible:

1. Ecclesiology: Israel and the Church as distinctive organisms
2. Hermeneutics: O.T. must be evaluated on its own terms
3. Law: Mosaic Law and the Law of Christ
4. Covenants: Unconditional/Unilateral Nature of Covenants
5. Historicity: Israel's Historical and Cultural Background
6. Eschatology: Future for Ethnic Israel