

Chapter 2 – Keeping God’s Covenant in the Church

1. How are “covenant,” “church” and “Christ” related?
 - a. How does the biblical term “body” describe the covenantal nature of the church?
 - b. How did the O.T. temple show the relation of church and covenant and of Christ and covenant? How did it fail in doing this, thus pointing the O.T. church to Christ?
 - c. What does Colossians 2:9 mean when it says that in Christ “dwells the fulness of the godhead bodily?” Does this also refer to His body, the church? How does 1 Peter 1:4 show this? Did you ever think of yourself as “partaker of the divine nature?” What does this mean?
2. Is it good to refer to the church as a “covenant community?” What duties does being part of this “covenant community” put on us? How do you contribute to the “community” life of the church?
3. How is a worship service a covenantal act? How is friendship expressed in worship?
4. When does an elect child become a member of the church?
 - a. Does this happen before baptism, by baptism, or at confession of faith? Why is it important to understand this correctly?
 - b. We number our churches by families. How does this reflect the idea of covenant and church?
5. How is feeding Christ’s lambs an act of ‘covenant keeping’ in the church?”
 - a. What are some ways that we keep the covenant with regard to the children of the church? Discuss children and worship services, catechism, Sunday School, the elders “endeavoring” in these things.
 - b. Is the instruction of the children of the church a parental responsibility only?
 - i. What role does the church as institute play in this? Can it be argued that the church has a role to play here? Proof?
 - ii. What is the relationship between the parents’ responsibility to teach their children, the church’s role in this, and the establishment of Christian schools?
 - iii. If our schools are parental schools and not church schools, why does the church have a responsibility in Art.21 of the Church Order to promote Christian Schools?
 - c. What is the greater danger for us in our churches? (Discuss)
 - i. That the church not do enough in its responsibility toward our children?
Or
 - ii. That parents not do enough themselves because church and school are doing such a fine job?
6. How important is membership in the church?
 - a. What do we mean when we say the church is the “mother” of us all? How much does a child need its mother? Is the church that necessary for us?
 - b. What is more important, having your name on the roles of a good reformed church, or participating in the life of the church? Is the first enough? How can you improve here?
 - c. How can selfishness creep into our attitude toward the church and our membership in the church?