

Joel Scot

From: Dr Francis Nigel Lee <francisnigellee@dr-fnlee.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2005 6:30 AM
To: Scott P. Bushey
Subject: Regeneration of covenant children at their conception rebuttably presumed

Scott P. Bushey wrote:

>> Dr. Lee,
>> "though rebuttably...."
>> Could you help me with this term you use in the paper on a number of
>> occasions:
>>
>> "It is sad indeed that Cain -- but not Abel and Seth --repudiated
>> this covenant of redemption when he grew up. Yet until then, his
>> mother rightly (though rebuttably) presumed him to be regenerate --
>> even from his conception and birth onward."

By "rebuttably" I here mean that Eve rightly presumed the tiny Cain was right before God from his conception onward -- until Cain's later actions (of murdering Abel etc.) clearly rebutted that prior presumption.

This is seen from her words: "I have gotten a male child -- (from)the Lord!"
[in which she either rightly presumed Cain was an elect sinner or wrongly presumed he was the promised Seed of the woman Himself (the Heb. here permitting either presumption)].

Ditto on all my other uses of the word "rebuttably" (in presuming any covenant child from his conception onward *already* seems to be regenerated despite his original sin, cf. I Cor. 7:14 etc.).

I am arguing that the just-conceived sinful covenant child is *right* *then* also to be presumed regenerated by the sanctifying work of the Spirit at conception, just as that Spirit at Christ's conception even prevented Him from thereby being tainted with original sin and being totally righteous from His conception onward. In our children's cases, of course, the additional benefit of freedom from original taint is absent; yet they are (presumably) regenerated as conception, so that if they die one second later they go straight to heaven despite their taint which Christ at their regeneration substitutionarily washes away by the action of His Spirit (cf. WCF 10:3).

So, holy children are entitled to received holy baptism (in order to seal their presumed *present* holiness, rather than to try to transubstantiate unholy covenant kids into regeneratees á la Rome). Baptism thus seals existing benefits; it does *not* engineer regeneration!

>> In advance,
>> Thank you.
>>
>> Scott
>>
>> "Scott P. Bushey" <waytohim@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> Amen Doctor!
>>
>> Dr Francis Nigel Lee <francisnigellee@dr-fnlee.org> wrote: Of course,
>> dear Scott!
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>> I am not ashamed but proud publicly to endorse all of the Westminster
>> Standards "in exhaustive detail!"
>>
>> Cordially in Christ's service,
>>
>> Rev. Dr. Francis Nigel Lee
>> Professor-Emeritus of the Queensland Presbyterian Theological College
>> "God tri-une, at the start, created the tri-universe" (cf. Genesis
>> 1:1-3)
>> Website: <http://www.dr-fnlee.org>
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>> Scott P. Bushey wrote:
>>>> Dr. lee,
>>>> Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ! I pray this short note finds
>>>> you well. I would like to paste this quote on PuritanBoard.com.
>>>> Would that be ok?
>>>>
>>>> "Not even the elect are Christians *before* they have been
>>>> regenerated. There can be no doubt at all that Westminster
>>>> considered the children of Christ-professors to be "*Christians*"
>>>> and federally holy *before* baptism and *therefore* are they
>>>> baptized."
>>>> They themselves say so in their *consensus* document the Directory
>>>> for the Publick Worship of God."
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>> No virus found in this outgoing message.
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>> Version: 7.0.323 / Virus Database: 267.6.2 - Release Date: 4/06/05
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>> Scott Bushey
>> www.SemperReformanda.com
>> www.PuritanBoard.com
>> "Put your trust in God and keep your gunpowder dry."
>> ~Oliver Cromwell
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> Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.
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