

Nehemiah 9:32-10:1; 10:28-39

Covenant Marriage and Covenant Membership

Sermon Notes for February 16, 2014, by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

Intro - The God Who Keeps Covenant, the Christian who Swears to His Own Hurt; Heb. 10:29

Cohabitation and the Universal Christian

- I. Marriage and Covenant - Mal. 2:14; Ez. 16:8; Pr. 2:17; Song of Songs 8:6,7; Isa. 50:1; Jer. 3:8
- II. Marriage and Membership Ex. 19-24; Jer. 31:32; Ezek. 16:8, 32; Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:20; Hos. 2
- III. Church Membership
Heb. 13:7,17; I Peter 5:2; I Cor. 5:2, 12; Phil. 1:1; Acts 8:1; I Cor. 1:2

Ps. 87:6; 1 Cor. 7:14

RCC's Constitution - Section III Membership

A. Membership in RCC Defined

1. Any head of household who has come to acceptance of the confessional statement and who has signed the confessional statement and covenant document is a member. In addition, those family members under his covenantal headship (spouse and children living at home) are also members, with the following exception:

Any of those older family members under his covenantal headship (spouse or older children living at home) who, in the determination of the Elders, lacks a credible profession of faith (in either belief or life) in the Lord Jesus Christ, or who expresses a well-reasoned and sincere desire not to become a member of RCC, will not be accepted into membership.

2. Any wife (of a non-professor) who has come to agreement with the Confessional Statement, and who has signed the confessional statement and covenant document is a member. In addition, those family members under her covenantal headship (children living at home) are also members, with the following exceptions:

Any of her older children who, in the determination of the Elders, lacks a credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, or who expresses a well-reasoned and sincere desire not to be a member of RCC, will not be accepted into membership.

3. Children born to, or adopted by, member parents will automatically be enrolled as members (1 Cor. 7:14).

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C. Termination of Membership

1. The names of members shall be removed from the roll of the church only by order of the Elders and according to the following provisions:

- a. Members may be removed by **transfer** of letter to another congregation approved by the elders.
- b. Members may be removed by a letter of **dismissal**, either ordinary or extraordinary.
- c. When a member cannot be found, the Elders may, after one year, **remove his name** from the roll and record the circumstances.
- d. Members shall be removed at their **death**.

(In view of the fact that Baptism confers an indelible mark upon the person baptized, every excommunicated person remains peculiarly accountable to the government of the Church, and shall be retained on the rolls of the Church as an excommunicated person, until such time as he either repents, dies, receives a letter of dismissal, or is received into membership at a church of like faith and practice.)

Children's Notes from "Covenant Marriage and Membership"

1. God makes commitments and keeps His _____.
2. So should _____!
3. A covenant is a _____.
4. Covenants have _____.
5. God married His people at _____.
6. _____ is a covenant
7. In _____, God's people make a covenant with God and each other.
8. It had some laws that Israel needed to keep _____.
9. Their _____ were to keep these laws.
10. Christians are to know and follow their particular _____.
11. Pastors are to know and shepherd their particular _____.
12. All Christians are to be part of a particular _____, with elders and deacons.
13. Children are church members here at _____.
14. Members can't just _____ from Christ's particular body,
15. A covenant involves at least _____ parties.