

I. DOUG WILSON ADVOCATES THE UNBIBLICAL & CONTRA-CONFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF PAEDOCOMMUNION.¹

- A. Christ Church Constitution: “Any baptized child may partake of the Lord’s Table, provided the parents instruct the child at each observation of the Supper, and the child can heed the instruction.”
- B. Doug Wilson: “Just a short time ago, another grandchild came to his first observance of the Lord’s Supper. I know this is troublesome to some readers, but please bear with me for a moment. He is a year and a half old, and doesn’t really talk yet. But he worships with his family throughout our worship service, and he has a basic sign language catechism down. ‘Where is Jesus?’ He pats his heart. ‘Where is God?’ He points to heaven. ‘Are you baptized?’ He pats his head. At the conclusion of our worship service, we all sing the *Gloria Patri* with hands upraised, which he used to do also. But as he began to notice the communion tray going by and he didn’t get any, it began to distress him. About a month before he came to the Table, he stopped raising his hands in the *Gloria Patri*, and just watched. He was starting to learn how to observe as a detached outsider. When it was decided he should come to the Table, he was carefully instructed in the meaning of the Supper as he held the bread. When he partook, together with his family, one of the first things he did was pat the heads of everyone around him — mother, father, grandmother. We are all baptized, he said, discerning the body. At the *Gloria Patri*, his hands shot up in the air. Glory to God indeed. So we believe the terms of the covenant, and we believe that God has promised us our children. We talk like we believe it because we do.” (AAT, 4).

II. PAEDOCOMMUNION IGNORES THE *DISTINCTIVENESS* OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, IN RELATION TO BAPTISM.

- A. ACTIVE
- B. PERSONAL
- C. CONSENTUAL
- D. SUBJECTIVE/EXPERIMENTAL

III. PAEDOCOMMUNION MISREPRESENTS THE BIBLICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.

- A. ORDINARY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
- B. MISINTERPRETED OR MISAPPLIED PASSAGES

IV. PAEDOCOMMUNION FAILS TO APPRECIATE THE GOD-ORDAINED PATTERN OF PARTICIPATION IN THE SACRAMENTAL FEASTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- A. SACRAMENTAL FEASTS IN GENERAL
- B. TRI-ANNUAL FEASTS IN JERUSALEM
- C. THE FEAST OF PASSOVER
- D. THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
- E. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

V. PAEDOCOMMUNION HAS AT LEAST TWO UNHEALTHY THEOLOGICAL TENDENCIES.

- A. BAPTISTIC²
- B. NOMINALISTIC³

¹ WLC 177: The sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s supper differ, in that baptism is to be administered but once, with water, to be a sign and seal of our regeneration and ingrafting into Christ, and that even to infants; whereas the Lord’s supper is to be administered often, in the elements of bread and wine, to represent and exhibit Christ as spiritual nourishment to the soul, and to confirm our continuance and growth in him, and that only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves.

² Christ Church (Moscow, Idaho) Elder Protocols: “Under the headship of Christ, the responsibility for administering the sacraments remains with the elders, who nevertheless respect the pastoral responsibilities of parents. Children in households who have not been baptized are recognized by the elders to be non-communicant members of member households. Children in households who have been baptized and have come to the Lord’s Table are communicant members of the church. Any baptized child may partake of the Lord’s Table, provided the parents instruct the child at each observation of the Supper, and the child can heed the instruction.”

³ Iain Murray to E Nigel Lee (1980s): “The admission of all church children to the Lord’s Table is the death of experimental religion.” Gavin Beers: “[Murray]’s right. It may build churches that are conservative, with a strong view on family, that love liturgy and beauty, and have a zeal for cultural transformation. It might look good, but, brethren, it will produce churches that are full of unconverted people who think they are converted.” (Link to Beers Sermon on “Age of Admission to the Lord’s Table” ~ <https://tinysa.com/sermon/112221114546788>)