

Eternity
Destiny
Understanding
Covenant
Application
Teach
Engage



Covenant

- **Matthew 26:27-29** And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, 28 for this is my blood, **which confirms the covenant between God and his people**. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. 29 Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."

Relationship!

- Covenant is the word God uses to describe his relationship with his people.

Exactly What Is Covenant?

- In modern society, the word covenant has lost some of the fullness and richness that it had in Bible times. Clearly, “covenant” is not a word we use much nowadays. Yet, it occurs over 300 times in the Bible, and not just in not just in obscure, unimportant places!
- In English the word, covenant signifies, a mutual understanding between two or more parties, each binding themselves to fulfill, specific obligations; a legal contract; a binding agreement; a written agreement. It also refers to a solid agreement to do or not to do a certain thing.
- Strong's concordance defines the Hebrew word, “Beriyth” as a compact, (made by passing between pieces of flesh), which implies the thought of cutting a covenant.
 - **Genesis 15:17-18 and Jeremiah 34:18**

The covenant is an expressed agreement. It consists of words that are either verbalized or written.

- **Four Components**

1. **The promise of the covenant.** In that a covenant is an interpersonal commitment the person involved would most likely expressed that commitment in the form of a promise.
2. **The terms of the covenant agreement** between two parties of necessity involves certain conditions under which the promise will be fulfilled on the part of the covenantor /and or the covenantee.
3. **The oath of the covenant.** Certain or divine covenants have their promises confirmed with an oath. When such is the case the covenant becomes irrevocable. Without an oath, the promises may be subject to change or cancellation.
4. **The seal of the covenant** is an ongoing, tangible witness to the truthfulness of the covenant. It serves as a constant reminder of the authenticity of the covenant the promise and terms.

The Marriage Ceremony (Covenant) would give us a clearer picture.

In The Beginning:

- **Perfect**; that is how we usually describe the world God made!
- Genesis 1:1-13
 - Day 1-3 - The scenery
 - Day 3-6 - The participants or actors
 - The climax of Day 6 – The creation of Humankind!
- God makes man and woman in his image. “Making them reflect our nature”
- We were created to reflect some of the character and responsibilities of God.
 - "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible
- **Perfect but not finished**
 - Genesis 2:15-25

Cultural Mandate

- These commands are sometimes referred to as the “**cultural mandate.**”
- Reminder to us that our work, our families, our marriages, our art, our science are good gifts. They aren't sub-spiritual things!

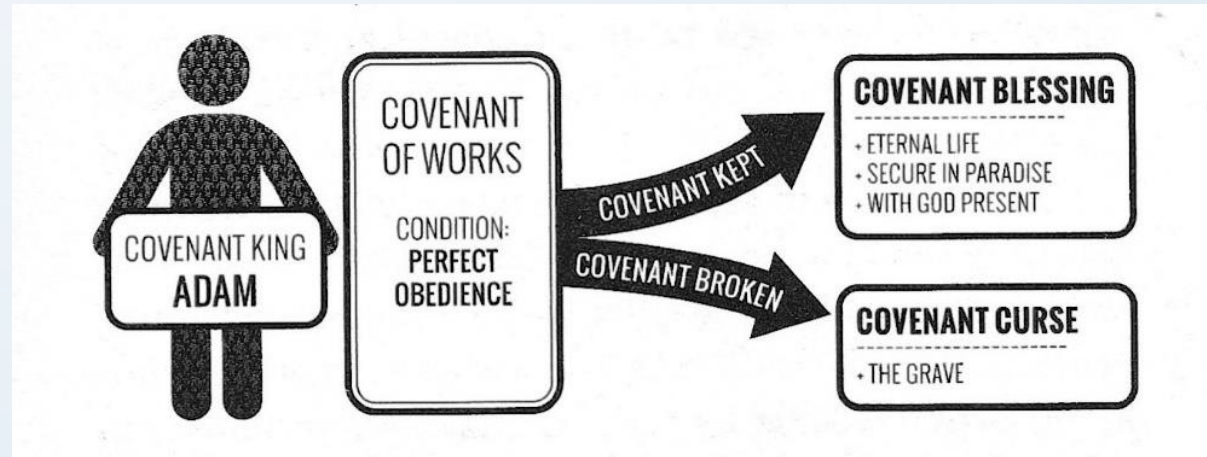
DON'T DO IT! Genesis 2:16:17

- You can ruin everything!

The Covenant of Works

- God's **People**
- In **Paradise**
- With God **Present**

- Remember, a covenant is an agreement between God and human beings, where God promises blessings if the conditions are kept and threatens curses if they are broken.
- There were 2 trees in the Garden



Covenant and the Curse

- **Genesis 3:1-5** *The serpent was clever, more clever*
 - Did God actually say?
 - Did God really mean what he said?

God has made a covenant with Adam, with blessing for obedience and curses for disobedience.

- God never goes back on his word, and his word was clear
- God's word is His bond!
- **God hates sin. He hates it because it messes up his world,** it's like ugly graffiti scrawled across a masterpiece.
- John Calvin "because he could not drag God from his throne, [Satan], attacked man, in whose His image shown... and therefore he endeavored, in the person of man, to obscure the glory of God.
- Images from the Gulf War



High Treason!

- Naked and ashamed
- Fig leaves and covered loins.
 - We are not self-sufficient
 - Only God can create from nothing!
 - We were created to need the opposite sex to be able to create!!!!

The Covenant Curses

- People
 - **Genesis 3:15** Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you." NLT

- God had commanded marriage and childbearing, so he makes both much harder:
 - Conceiving and giving birth will now be both difficult and dangerous.
 - Marriages will also be corrupted by sin!
- **Paradise**
 - **Genesis 3:17-19** And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. 19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat. NLT
- **Presence**
 - **Genesis 3:22-24** Then the Lord God said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" 23 **So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden**, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. NLT

- **Life and Death** – Surely you will die!
 - **Genesis 3:19b** until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."
 - Physical death was inescapable.
 - Immortal beings.
 - First and second death.
- **The First Gospel** – Punishment and hope
 - **Genesis 3:14-15** Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. 15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." NLT
 - Hope - **Genesis 3:20-21** Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. 21 And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.
 - God replaces their human attempt to cover themselves, (fig leaves) with animal skins. **Our first indication that something has to die in order to cover us!**

