

# Covenant

Ben Lees



**Hebrew - bĕriyth -  
bond or alliance**

**Latin - con venire -  
coming together**



# **Covenant looks like a Contract**

**Vows are exchanged**

**You write an account of your belongings**

**You sign it and make a mark**

**But it is fundamentally different**



# **Covenant looks like a Contract**

**Contract - When one part stops the contract becomes null and void**

**The effort is then about recovering what is owed or what was given**



# **Covenant looks like a Contract**

**Covenant - Both parties uphold their end  
regardless of what the other does**

**Each party supports one another in doing  
everything they can to uphold each other's part  
of the agreement**

***(covenants can be broken Hosea 6:7, but there were severe  
consequences for doing so - Our focus this morning is on staying  
in covenant)***



# **The Blood Covenant**

- 1. They Exchange Coats - Everything I am now belongs to you**
- 2. They exchange weapons - All my strength is now yours**
- 3. They exchange vows - Promises to one another**
- 4. They cut an animal in two and walk between it**
- 5. They cut themselves and become blood-brothers**
- 6. They account for each other belongings**
- 7. They exchange names**
- 8. They are pronounced friends**



# **God's Covenant with Man**

**His Cloak - He took our sins Eph 4:21-24, 2 Cor 5:21**

**His Nature - 2 Peter 1:3-4, 2 Cor 5:17, Rom 6:6-11**

**His Name - John 14:13-14**

***There are many more things we received from  
Christ in 'The Great Exchange'***



# Grace Abounds

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. ***But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.*** So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:18-21. NLT



**The Moment I agree to do  
what I can, grace steps  
in and makes it possible**



# Questions To Ponder

**Have you given all of yourself to Christ? - The Exchange**

**Is there anything you are holding back**

**What areas are you struggling to live out**

**What sin challenges are you facing**

**Are you willing to let Grace Step in to that struggle**



**Covenant with one  
another**



**As Christians we are  
all in Covenant with  
one another**

**We still make deeper,  
closer covenants with  
key people**



**1 Samuel 18:1-4** Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. <sup>2</sup>Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. <sup>3</sup>Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup>And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

**They Renewed their Covenant - 1 Samuel 23:18**



**When I am in covenant with my brother everything I have is his.**

**Whenever he needs me I am there**

**I lay down my rights so that my covenant brother can flourish (Jonathan saw that God had anointed David as King and gave up his right to be king)**

**We speak into each others lives**



# Questions To Ponder

**How do you think this concept of covenant relationship could work today?**

**Am I willing to let others have access to all I have?**

**Am I willing to let others speak into my life?**

**Who am I giving myself to in covenant relationship or should I be giving myself...**



# **God's Covenant in Marriage**



<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does the church.* <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body,<sup>[a]</sup> of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects *her husband.*

**3 verses on wives submitting to their husbands**

**9 verses on Husbands dying for their wives**



# Submitting and Dying

- **This is challenging in today culture**
- **The Greek for submission won't help us here**
- **This morning we will focus on the relationship between a husband and wife who are both seeking to work this out together within the covenant of marriage**



**The Husbands role to  
Love his wife like God  
Loves the Church**



**There is great beauty in  
working out the covenant  
relationship between  
Husband and wife**



# **Relationship without the Covenant (marriage cert)**

- **We live in a time when we want all the benefits but we are not willing to commit to another person in marriage.**
- **We can use the threat that I am going to go as a way of getting what I want**



# Questions To Ponder

- **In your marriage, who are you living it for. Yourself or your spouse (be honest, its easy for it to become about yourself)**
- **What, if any, fears arise from living in the marriage covenant as we have discussed it today?**