

What Is Covenant?
The Radical Nature Of God – Part 1
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"The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant."

Psalms 25:14 (p.424)

"...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 (p.932)

I. Covenant Definition:

1. Hebrew: b'rit – literally means "to cut".

A binding obligation of love and commitment between two parties into a permanent union than can only be separated by death.

2. Covenant is not a contract.

A contract is an exchange of goods, services or products which can be cancelled, changed or renegotiated.

3. Covenant is the exchange of a person's entire life to another person.

An all-encompassing agreement between two parties, where everything I have is the others.

II. The New Covenant Fulfills The Old Covenant:

"But Abram replied, 'O Sovereign LORD, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?' The LORD told him, 'Bring me a three-year-old heifer...'" Genesis 15:8-9 (p.12)

1. Exchange Identities:

- **Old Covenant: Exchange of Robes.**

"And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt." 1 Samuel 18:3-4 (p.225)

- **New Covenant: I Am Made Righteous.**

"I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels." Isaiah 61:10 (p.565)

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (p.884)

2. Exchange Strengths:

- **Old Covenant: Exchange Belts.**
- **New Covenant: I Have Jesus Power in Me.**

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13 (p.901)

“Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:11 (p.898)

3. Exchange Enemies:

- **Old Covenant: Exchange Weapons.**
- **New Covenant: My Enemy Has Been Defeated.**

Our Enemy: Death

“He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.”

2 Timothy 1:11 (p.914)

Jesus Enemy: Satan

“In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

Colossians 2:15 (p.903)

Jesus Disarmed Satan on the Cross. Satan's only Power Now Is To:

- A. **Accuse**
- B. **Blame**
- C. **Lie**

4. Sacrificial Animal Cut:

- **Old Covenant: Blood Covenant.**

“Because you have broken the terms of our covenant, I will cut you apart just as you cut apart the calf when you walked between its halves to solemnize your vows.”

Jeremiah 34:18 (p.602)

- **New Covenant: Jesus Blood Sacrifice Makes Me Holy.**

“Under the old system, the high priest brought the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, and the bodies of the animals were burned outside the camp. So also Jesus

suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy by means of his own blood.”
Hebrews 13:11-12 (p.929)

5. Walk of Death:

- **Old Covenant: Give Up My Rights.**

“After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day...”
Genesis 15:17-18 (p.12)

- **New Covenant: Take On The Rights of Jesus.**

“If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it.”
Luke 17:33 (p.800)

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are...”
1 John 3:1 (p.942)

6. Covenant Mark:

- **Old Covenant: Circumcision.**

David and Goliath: *“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”*
1 Samuel 17:26 (NIV)

- **New Covenant: I Have New Life.**

“When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature... and with Him you were raised to new life...”
Colossians 2:11-12 (p.903)

7. Pronouncement Of Terms:

- **Old Covenant: Blessings and Curses:**

Deuteronomy 28

- **New Covenant: Through Jesus The Curse Is Gone.**

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus”
Philippians 4:19 (p.901)

“...When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing...”
Galatians 3:13 (p.891)

8. **Covenant Meal:**

- **Old Covenant: Symbol of Giving Ourselves to One Another.**

“And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine.”
Genesis 14:18 (p.12)

- **New Covenant: I Become One With Jesus.**

“Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.”
John 6:56 (p.815)

9. **Exchange of Names:**

- **Old Covenant: Identities Are Mixed Together.**

“This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations.” Genesis 17:4-6 (p.13)

- **New Covenant: I Have A New Name.**

“...And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”
Revelation 2:17 (p.950)

“Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” John 14:14 (p.823)

10. **Exchange of First-Born Sons:**

- **Old Covenant: Prove The Covenant.**

“Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. ‘Abraham!’ God called. ‘Yes,’ he replied. ‘Here I am.’ ‘Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”
Genesis 22:1-2 (p.17)

- **New Covenant: The Ultimate Gift.**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (p.811)

III. **Covenant Types:**

1. **Parity Covenant: Friend to friend, equals, a partnership.**

2. **Suzerain Covenant: King to peasant, giving of love, loyalty and commitment.**