

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE

(Our God is a Covenant God)

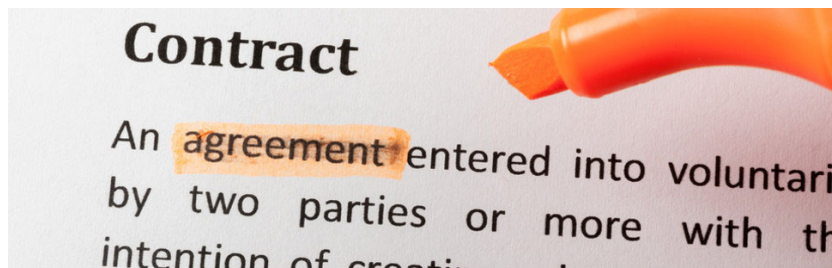




THE COVENANT OF WORKS

Week 2

REVIEW: WHAT IS A COVENANT?



- An Agreement
- A Relationship
- More than a promise
- An Oath-Bound Promise
- "A *bond in blood sovereignly administered*"



REVIEW: ELEMENTS OF A COVENANT

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise or Blessing
4. Penalty or Curse



REVIEW: EXAMPLES OF A COVENANT

Mortgage on your house

- Parties:
 - you and your bank
- Conditions:
 - you-- make payments
 - the bank-- give you the loan



REVIEW: EXAMPLES OF A COVENANT

Mortgage on your house

- Promise
 - For you-- use of loan, return of property
 - For the bank-- interest on the loan
- Penalty



REVIEW: EXAMPLES

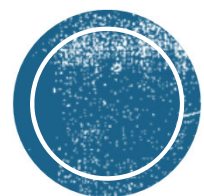
- Marriage
 - Parties: man and woman
 - Sign (or seal): wedding rings, the vows
 - Witnesses



REVIEW: DEFINITION OF COVENANT

"The gospel set forth in the context of God's eternal plan of communication with His people as it unfolds in the historical outworking of the redemptive plan of God. Covenant theology is central to the message of the Scriptures, which testify to God's redemption of His people in and through the finished work of Jesus Christ."





GENESIS 2-3



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SHORTER CATECHISM 12

QUESTIONS:

What is
emphasized?

Who is
emphasized?



- The first covenant made with man was a **covenant of works**, in which **life was promised** to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon **condition of perfect and personal obedience**.

WCF 7.2

QUESTIONS:

What is emphasized?

Who is emphasized?



THE COVENANT OF WORKS

- *Name* of the Covenant
- *Substance* of the Covenant
- *Gracious character* of the Covenant
- *Results of the breach* of the Covenant
- *Application* of the Covenant today





NAME OF THE COVENANT



NAME OF THE COVENANT

Covenant of Nature

- Describes the **relationship** between natural (unfallen) man and God



NAME OF THE COVENANT

Covenant of Life

- Describing the **promise** attached to it



NAME OF THE COVENANT



Covenant of Works

- Describing the **condition** to be fulfilled
- *"The first covenant made with man was a **covenant of works**" (WCF 7.2)*



NO WORD “COVENANT”?

- Can this really be a covenant being described in Genesis 2 when the word “*covenant*” does not appear?
- The word covenant appears in other places in the Bible
 - Noah (Genesis 9)
 - Abraham (Genesis 15)



NO WORD “COVENANT?”



- A very important principal of Bible study is that the Bible is a complete book that is woven together.



NO WORD “COVENANT?”

- One of the best ways to be confused is to study a subject only by means of *word* study, without looking for concepts.
- An example: TRINITY





SUBSTANCE OF THE COVENANT



SUBSTANCE OF THE COVENANT

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise
4. Threat or Curse



SUBSTANCE OF THE COVENANT

1. Parties
 2. Condition
 3. Promise
 4. Threat or Curse
1. God and Adam
 2. Perfect, Personal Obedience
 3. Life (Eternal)
 4. Death



1. PARTIES TO THE COVENANT

- God and Adam, acting as the representative (federal head) of all mankind
- Adam and Eve understood the nature of the covenant

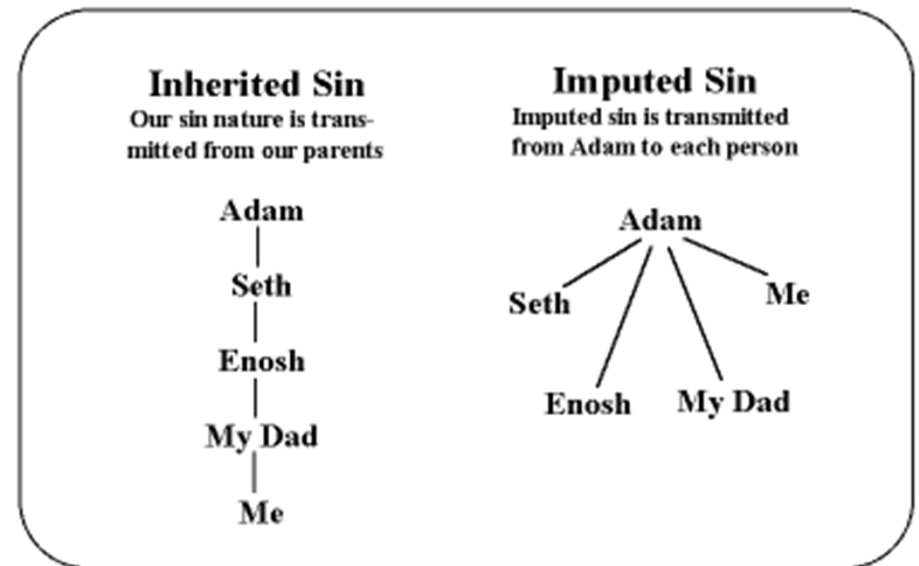


- *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*
(Genesis 3:2-3)



ADAM ACTED FOR ALL MEN?

- Adam's penalty passed onto **the entire human race**
- The Bible teaches that Adam was our representative
 - Romans 5:12-21



- **12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through **one man**, and death through sin, and so death spread to **all men because all sinned**—
- **16** For the judgment following **one trespass** brought condemnation
- **17** For if, because of **one man's trespass**, death reigned through that one man
- **18** Therefore, as **one trespass** led to condemnation for all men
- **19** For as by the **one man's disobedience** the many were made sinners

ROMANS 5

NOTICE:

Repetition

Emphasis on Adam

Significance of Adam's actions



IF ADAM, THEN CHRIST!

- Salvation is based on the same principle of covenantal headship
- God's plan of salvation in Christ further shows how God works by means of a covenant



- For as in Adam **all die**, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

1 CORINTHIANS

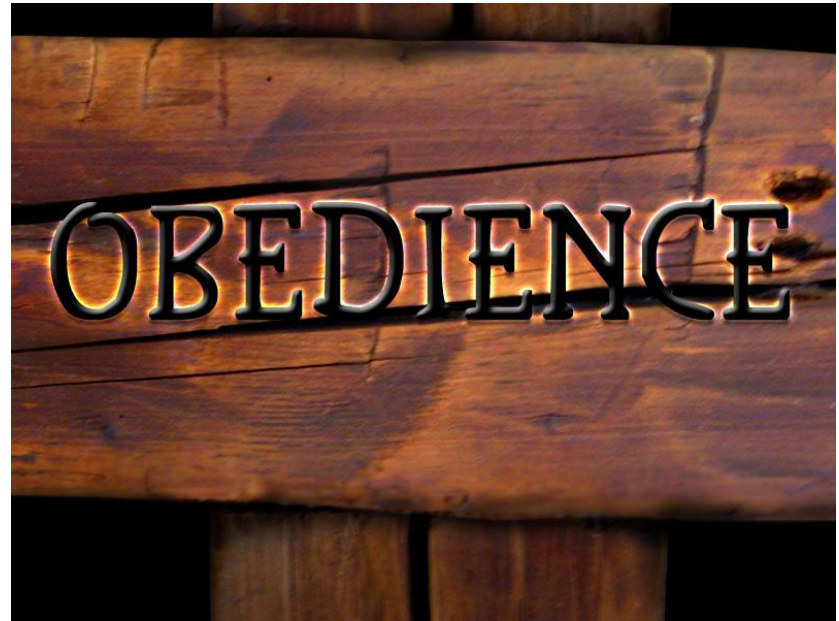
1 Cor. 15:22

1 Cor. 15:47-49



2. CONDITION: OBEDIENCE

- What did Adam have to obey?
- The will of God was expressed in a positive command.



WHAT KIND OF OBEDIENCE?

- Perfect obedience
 - James 2:10
 - Deuteronomy 27:26
- Personal obedience
 - Galatians 3:10
- Obedience of the heart
 - Matthew 19



OBEY.



3. PROMISE FOR OBEDIENCE

- Eternal life
- Blessedness and Communion with God
 - Leviticus 18:5
 - Romans 2:6-7; 7:10; 10:5
 - Deuteronomy 20:15
 - Matthew 19:17
 - Galatians 3:12



4. THREAT FOR DISOBEDIENCE

- Death
- And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)



4. THREAT FOR DISOBEDIENCE

- What do we mean by death?
 - Spiritual
 - Physical
 - Judicial



4. THREAT FOR DISOBEDIENCE

Spiritual

- Lost communion with God
- Seen in their rebellion and in their seeking to hide from God

Judicial

- Under God's wrath
- Confronted by God in the garden





GRACIOUS CHARACTER OF THE COVENANT



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

LAW



COVENANT



GRACIOUS CHARACTER OF THE COVENANT

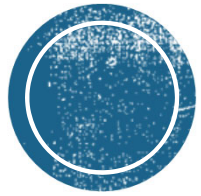
LAW

A law is the revealed will of a sovereign, to which obedience is demanded and a punishment threatened.

COVENANT

A covenant gives a person a right, after fulfilling the conditions of the covenant, to all the privileges promised.





RESULTS OF THE BREACH BY ADAM



RESULTS OF THE BREACH

- He fell into an **estate of sin**
 - Deprived of the image of God (*cf. Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24*)
 - Conscious of his shame (*Gen. 3:7-10*)
 - His conscience was terrified (*Gen. 3:8*)
 - Manifested self-love by accusing Eve (*Gen. 3:12*)



RESULTS OF THE BREACH

- He fell into an **estate of misery**
 - Sickness and pain
 - physical death



ADAM BROKE THE WHOLE LAW

1. Have no other Gods

- He chose another God when he followed the devil

2. Make no idol

- he idolized his own needs



ADAM BROKE THE WHOLE LAW

3. Do not take the Lord's name in vain
 - he took the name of God in vain when he did not believe Him
4. Keep the Sabbath holy
 - He did not keep the rest and estate in which he was created



ADAM BROKE THE WHOLE LAW

5. Honor your father and mother
 - he dishonored his Father in heaven
6. Do not murder
 - he killed himself and all his descendents
7. Do not commit adultery
 - in eyes and mind he committed spiritual fornication



ADAM BROKE THE WHOLE LAW

8. Do not steal
 - he stole that which God had set aside
9. Do not bear false witness
 - he bore false witness against God, when he believed the devil
10. Do not covet
 - he coveted with an evil covetousness





APPLICATION TODAY



APPLICATION

- Admiration
 - *That God would condescend to make a covenant with us.*
- Examination
 - *Are you still trying to fulfill the covenant of works?*
- Trust and Reliance



NEXT WEEK:

- The Covenant of Grace
- **Homework:**
 - Ephesians 1 and 3
 - Zechariah 6
 - Romans 5

