

The Covenant of Works

by Landon Jostes

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

God in his holy wisdom powerfully preserves and governs all his creations and all their actions through his works of providence. Yet God has a special relationship with those creatures that are made in his own image. This special relationship is called the Covenant of Works, which is sometimes referred to as the Covenant of Life.

What is a covenant? There are many definitions of this term given throughout the years, but perhaps the most helpful was given by Ryan McGraw in his book on covenant theology. He defines a covenant as, "Agreements or contracts that bind two or more parties together by promises, conditions, and sanctions." This definition helpfully summarizes the Bible's teaching on this great subject.

One of the elements of a covenant is having two or more parties that are bound together by a known agreement or contract. In the Covenant of Works, God and Adam are the parties representing this special relationship between God and mankind (Hos 6:7). The promise in this covenant is the reward of eternal life (Matt 19:16-17). The condition of this covenant is perfect, personal, and perpetual obedience to the whole law of God (Gal 3:10). And the sanction of this covenant is temporal (Gen 7:21), spiritual (Eph 2:1), and eternal death (Matt 25:41).

Before the Fall, the first Adam needed no salvation, no redemption. Adam, as the representative for all mankind (Rom 5:12), was created holy and upright (Eccl 7:29). He had sufficient ability to keep the whole law perfectly. As Thomas Boston says, "There was light in his understanding, sanctity in his will, and rectitude in his affections; there was such an harmony among all his faculties, that his members yielded to his affections, his affections to his will, his will obeyed his reason, and his reason was subject to the law of God."

This is the state of innocence in which God created man, yet Adam rebelled against God. In this state of uprightness, Adam chose the wickedness of sin over the perfections of God. Because Adam covenantally stood as a representative of all mankind, we all sinned and fell with him in his first transgression. In Adam, we all ate of the forbidden fruit and received the punishment of death. But God, being rich in mercy, established a second covenant, the Covenant of Grace, to redeem ruined sinners through the second Adam, our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

WSC Q. 12, What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

June 2026

Sundays Weekly:

Prayer Meeting- 8:00
Sunday School- 9:00
AM Worship- 10:15
PM Worship- 5:30

Highlights for
July:

- Youth Pool Day (11am-2pm) 7/10
- GA Update lunch 7/12
- VBS 7/27-31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 NextGen - 1-2PM	4 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	5 Food Ministry- 9AM	6 Picnic and Frisbee (Stillwell Park) 10AM-1PM
7	8	9 Diaconate Meeting 6:30PM	10 NextGen - 1-2PM	11 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	12 Food Ministry- 9AM Youth Movie Night 5-9PM	13 Christopher's Going Away (Jostes Home) 3-5PM
14 Lord's Supper- AM	15 Missions Meeting- 5:30-7:00PM	16	17 NextGen - 1-2PM	18 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	19 Food Ministry- 9AM	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	26 Food Ministry- 9AM	27
	PCA General Assembly in Louisville, KY					
28 Lord's Supper- PM	29	30				

Key: BLUE- Church Wide Events | PURPLE- Bible Studies | ORANGE- NextGen | GREEN- Children's Events | BROWN- Food Ministry | RED- Meetings | BLACK- Holidays

Quarterly Communion Offering: One Hopeful Place-a shelter for men and women that provides transitional housing and emergency shelter services while guiding unhoused individuals towards stability, self-sufficiency, and independence.

Missionary Highlight:



Presbyterian and Reformed
Chaplain Corp (PRCC)



The Elliots

Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Corp (PRCC).

Pray for military Chaplains as they minister in difficult environments serving many who don't know Christ. Pray for civilian Chaplains as they serve in prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes. Pray that God would protect Chaplain families, especially during times of deployment.

John and Lu Elliot, IXO Nicoya, Costa Rica

Praise God for the work of God being seen in multiple baptisms a couple months ago. Pray for continued growth in language fluency, especially as John has been preaching in Spanish. Pray for success in their local outreach and evangelism, and for God to do a mighty work in Nicoya and Santa Cruz through their efforts.

How can I support Missions?

PRAY for our Missionaries | **GIVE** to Missions | **GO** on a Missions Trip | **JOIN** the Missions Team

Local:

- Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, Chaplain Shane Hardesty

National:

- Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Corp (PRCC)
- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at UF, Pastor Steve Lammers
- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at FSU, Pastor Kelly Jackson

International:

- Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Pastor Victor Atallah
- Brenda Carter, MTW San Yi, Taiwan
- Chris and Savanna, MTW (sensitive)
- Franklin and Beth Beaver, MTW Worldwide
- David and Jill Martin, MTW Odessa, Ukraine/Brasov, Romania
- Ang Bahay Parola (The Lighthouse) Children's Home, MTW Manila, Philippines
- Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Kyiv, Ukraine
- Perry and Betty, MTW (sensitive)
- Robert and Lisa Stewart, MTW Nagoya, Japan
- Verne and Alina Marshall, MTW Santiago, Chile
- John and Lu Elliot, IXO Nicoya, Costa Rica
- Donny and Courtney Harwood, MTW Glasgow, Scotland