



COVENANT CHURCH

In Covenant – Part 3
“Covenants With Others”
Pastor Stephen Hayes
February 16, 2020

Main Idea – In order to have good relationships with others, learn about God’s covenants with you, and your own covenants within yourself. Then, if you are well-grounded in your faith, growing in your faith, grateful for what God has done for you, and generous to others, you will be ready to enter covenants with others.

Life is about relationships

- God has plans for your life. He has a direction toward which He wants to point you.
- If you are in a covenant relationship with God, He will bring you peace as He guides you on your life’s pathway.
- An important part of your life’s journey will involve covenant relationships with other people. We are better together. You need to be part of a team.
- God establishes His covenants with groups of people. **Genesis 15** tells the account of God’s covenant with Abraham. In this covenant, God did all the work in a vision; Abraham was an observer. All of the vows, sacrifices, and energy were taking place within the Godhead. **Hebrews 6: 13-14** – **For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”**

Four Questions to Determine if You are Ready to Make Covenants With Others

1. **Are you grounded?**
 - The fundamental principles and ideas of your life will establish the foundation on which your life plays out.
 - **Psalm 92:12-14** – **The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing (NKJV)**
 - Without God at the core of your ideas, nothing of eternal consequence can happen in your life. Jesus often used this phrase during His teaching: **Matthew 11:15** – **“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”**

2. Are you growing?

- At every stage in life, you should be growing: becoming wiser, learning more about God and yourself, and productively engaging with other people.
- Growth takes time and dedication.
- There is no finish line in life until God draws that line. Until then, your work as a Kingdom worker is never done. Your ability to grow and learn will continue as long as you live. “When you can afford to quit, you cannot afford to quit.”
- **Psalm 139:16 – Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them. (NASB)**

3. Are you grateful?

- Do you agree the things that have the greatest value in your life are those things you don't deserve – things God simply gave to you?
- It is easy to forget your greatest blessings if you don't take time to consider them.
- All the things of value in your life came from God.
- It is through those gifts and blessings that your significance emerges. God will use what He has already given you to establish your eternal significance in His will.

4. Are you generous?

- If you are too competitive in life you will shortchange someone else of his or her due blessing.
- God has given you talents and abilities. Develop them using wisdom and discretion. Strategically use your gifts as God guides you. Do not waste your time and talent in a place where God is not working. **Matthew 7:6-8 – “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (NIV)**
- If you are following God's direction, regardless of how others may receive your gifts, God will give you peace.

Bring your gifts to God, develop those gifts, protect those gifts

- **Genesis 15:8-11 – And he said, “Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?” So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” *Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other;***

but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

- In the above verses we notice that Abram brought the sacrifice before God, then he prepared (developed) the sacrifice, and then he kept the sacrifice from being stolen.
- In your life, dedicate your gifts and blessings to God. Then, work to refine and develop those gifts and blessings. Finally, protect them.
- Do not let Satan and the natural world undermine your gifts by diverting your attention to something that is not part of God's covenant.

Reflective Questions for In Covenant – Part 3

1. Grade yourself on each of the four questions Pastor Stephen presented. How well grounded are you in the things of God? Are you growing in knowledge of those things? Are you grateful for all God has given you? Are you a generous individual, so that God can bless others through you?
2. Pastor Stephen said you need to protect your gifts and blessings so that they don't get diverted from God's purposes. Have you experienced anything this week that might have been an attempt by Satan to steal – or distract – your gifts and blessings?
3. What are some practical things one should do to ensure his or her gifts and blessings are not being diverted from God's purposes?