



## ***Bound Together: A Covenantal Relationship***

**Derrick Shields**  
**“A Rainbow Sign”**  
**1/8/23**

**Key Verses:** Genesis 9:8-17

**Key Thought:** As the rainbow is a tangible pointer to God's merciful promise not to destroy all life on earth by water, so the bread and cup of Holy Communion is a tangible pointer to God's merciful promise to redeem those who are willing.

### **Points to Consider:**

- (If you missed it, watch the message from January 1<sup>st</sup>, in which Pastor Derrick introduces the theme for 2023, “Body Building,” from Ephesians 4:11-16.) → Studying the covenants to remember God's love for us strengthens our faith that He does want to build His body!
- Whereas contracts exist to support transactions, covenants exist to support relationships.
- Covenants involve a solemn promise in which at least one party pledges to bless or serve another. They can be unilateral or bilateral, unconditional or conditional.
- 6:5-9: God had regretted making humans because of our utter depravity, but He preserved humanity (and the animals) on account of one “blameless” person.
- 6:18: The word “covenant” (בְּרִית) appears for the first time! It is developed at 9:9-11: God promises to not destroy all life on earth by water. The covenant is unilateral, unconditional, and still applicable. The sign of the covenant, the rainbow, reminds God of his promise.
- Each of God's covenants in the Old Testament help to illuminate the New Covenant, the gospel of Jesus Christ. ← The “Noahic Covenant” reveals God's love and mercy, which is granted to humanity on account of one “blameless” person. While we do not deserve it, we can enjoy God's goodness! Like the rainbow, the symbol of Holy Communion reminds us of God's unmerited love for us. (See 1 John 4:9-10.)

### **Discussion Prompts:**

- Develop the differences between a contract and a covenant.
- Do you agree that the flood was an act of justice? Why or why not?
- How does the story present both God's justice and God's mercy?
- How does the story of Noah and the flood illuminate the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- How do we respond?