



COVENANT

COVENANTS VS. CONTRACTS

Every member promises to love God, protect the unity of the church, share in the responsibility of the church, serve in the ministry of the church, support the testimony of the church and to grow spiritually!

Jesus gave 100% of himself to us, therefore, we commit 100% of ourselves to Him and to one another.

- a solemn commitment, a pledged faithfulness, and a relationship before God.

I. GOD: COVENANT MAKER — GOD GRACIOUSLY PLEDGES HIMSELF!

GENESIS 9:8-9

"I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth." Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth.

God's covenant reveals the reliability of his character.

God is faithful to his promises.

II. MAN: COVENANT BREAKER — WE NEED JESUS!

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

31 "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord. 33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they

will be my people. 34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

HEBREWS 8:6-8

6 But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. 8 But when God found fault with the people, he said: Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

Our hope rests in what God provides through Jesus.

III. JESUS: NEW COVENANT MEDIATOR — JESUS SECURES FORGIVENESS AND TRANSFORMS HIS PEOPLE.

LUKE 22:20

This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

HEBREWS 8:6

But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

Jesus establishes this covenant through his sacrificial death; the cup at the Lord's Supper directs us to that costly commitment.

Lord's Supper!

IV. COVENANT OF MARRIAGE — COVENANT LOVE BECOMES VISIBLE IN DAILY FAITHFULNESS.

MALACHI 2:14

You cry out, "Why doesn't the Lord accept my worship?" I'll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.

The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.

25-28 Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is

designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already “one” in marriage. Ephesians 5 MSG

Marriage is a covenant. Marriage points to Christ and the church.

Our church covenant should become visible over time in the way we live and treat one another.

V. CHURCH COVENANT — THE PROMISE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER FOLLOW JESUS.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

ACTS 2:42-47

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper, and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

A church covenant is a congregation's *shared* commitment

Because Jesus has committed 100% of himself to us, let us faithfully commit 100% of ourselves to Him and to one another!