

Covenant Keeping God

Hebrews 8:6-13

Covenant and Contract Distinguished

- *Contracts and covenants differ in a few areas. In terms of initiation, contracts are made by the exchange of promises, whereas covenants are sworn by solemn oaths. In application, contracts are limited by the terms of the exchange of property (“this is yours, that is mine”), while covenants involve an exchange of life (“I am yours, you are mine”), which covers a virtually unlimited range of human relations and duties. In terms of motivation, contracts are based on profit and self-interest, while covenants call for self-giving loyalty and sacrificial love. Contracts are temporary while covenant bonds are permanent, even intergenerational. Such distinctions do not imply that covenants are necessarily opposed to contracts, since covenants call for both promise-making and oath-swearing (Heb 6:13–18). A contract is an arrangement in human affairs that may be reinforced by swearing a covenant, in order to add the more binding dimension of the divine.*

Pre-Nuptials

- *Nobody plans to fail - but a lot of people fail to plan. Since we do not get married with a view to divorce, most Australians do not consider the benefits of a prenuptial agreement. Australian couples can plan their future rights and responsibilities through a binding financial agreement. A financial agreement is a contract entered into between both parties either prior or after the wedding date that addresses a range of issues outlined in the Family Law Act 1975.*

God's Covenant with Us

- “Through Covenant with God we enjoy a relationship with him that is akin to marriage and includes protection from Satan our enemy, peace with God though we declared war on him through sin, material provision in this life and the life to come, and a coming perfect Kingdom as our home where Jesus will forever rule over all as our gracious covenant King.”

Each Covenant Has 5 Common Features

- The **covenant mediator** (the person with whom God makes the covenant) and his **covenant role** (the people whom the mediator represents).
- The **blessings** promised in the covenant
- The **conditions** (or curses) of the covenant
- The **sign** by which the covenant will be celebrated and remembered
- The **form that God's family** takes as a result of the covenant.

An Act of Grace and Kindness

- Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.