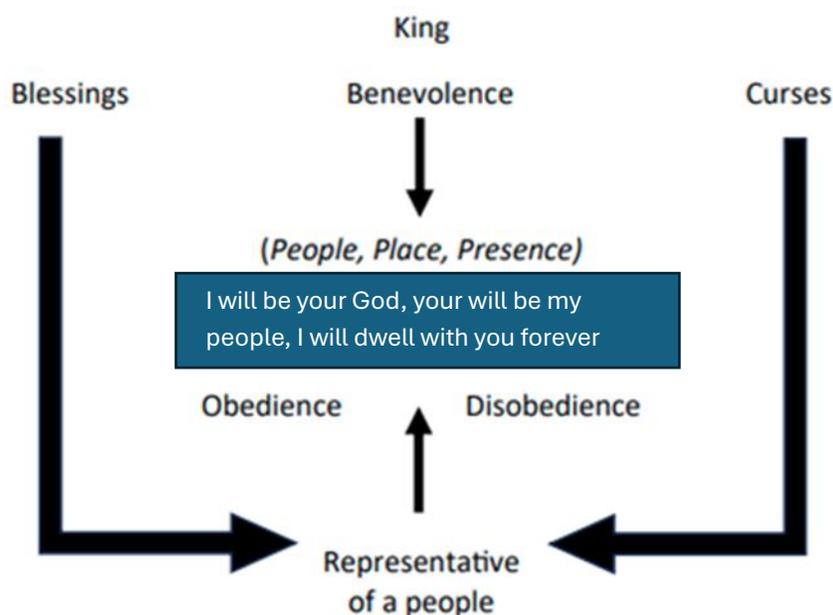


## Covenant of Works

### Week 4, TBLC - Handout

#### What is a Covenant?

A formal binding of two parties in relationship based on mutual commitment with consequences for breaking or keeping



#### ► Genesis 1:26-31(ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that

*he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

- Male and Female are created in the image of God.
- Cultural Mandate:
  - Male and Female have been entrusted with managing His creation as his representative
  - Male and female have been commanded to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth

### ► **Genesis 2:4, 7-9, (ESV)**

*<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.*

*<sup>7</sup>then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>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.”*

### →→ **Creation of Man.**

How is man created according to the text?

Where did God place the man?

What else is in this garden?

Why did God place him there?

What particular instructions did God command the man?

► **Genesis 2:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Significance in Naming in the Bible.

► **Genesis 2:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

➔➔ **Creation of Woman.**

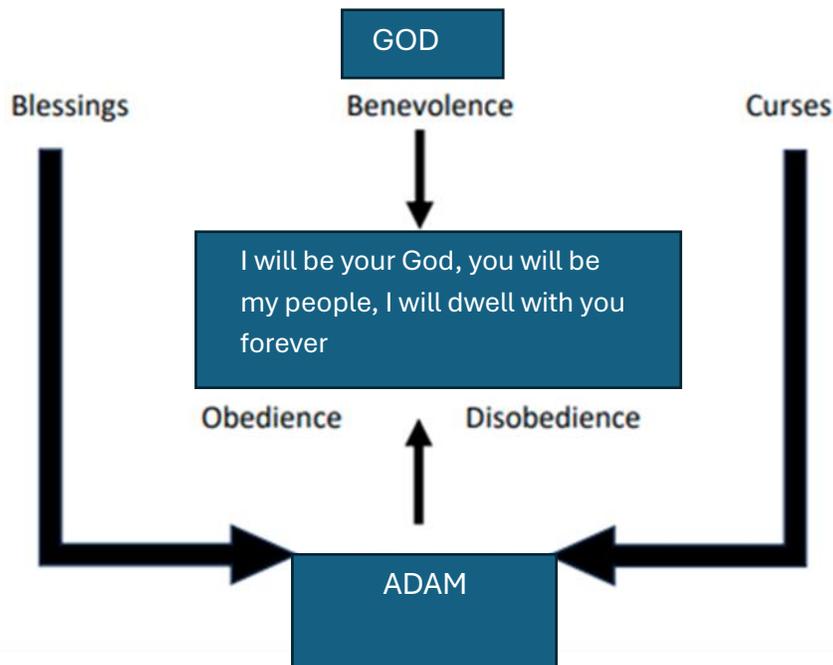
How is woman created according to the text?

Where did God place the woman?

What was Adam’s response?

First Marriage.

## ► Covenant of Works



What does Obedience look like and what are the blessings:

### **Ligonier Ministries explains:**

To understand the covenant of works, we must consider Adam's state in the garden of Eden before the fall. God created Adam "good" and in the proper relationship with Him ([Gen. 1:31](#)). He was not as good as could be, however. By obeying the command to not eat the forbidden fruit (vv. 16-17), Adam could have reflected God's glory more fully, and would have merited eternal life for himself and his descendants. We know this to be the case because that is what Jesus did, and Jesus is the second Adam tasked with fulfilling the vocation of the first Adam ([1 Cor. 15:45](#)). (Ligonier Ministries)

What does Disobedience look like and what are the curses:

► **Genesis 3:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Sin. Death. Destruction. It all starts.

► **Genesis 3:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Man hid.

God came.

God called to the man.

► **Genesis 3:14a-16, 17b-19**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent...<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

→→ Consequences of Sin are a reversal of what would have been covenant blessings.

**People.**

**Paradise.**

**Presence.**

→→ But what else do you hear?

► **Genesis 3:20**

*<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

Adam responds in faith.

► **Genesis 3:21-24**

*<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*

*<sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Garments of skin

Removal from the garden

→→ How were people in the Old Testament saved?

## ► WHY understand Covenant of Work

The covenant of works is still in effect.

### **Romans 1:21; 3:23a**

*<sup>1:21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*<sup>3:23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

### **Romans 6:23a** “For the wages of sin is death”

Good news is we do have a better representative.

### **Romans 5:12, 15-21**

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*

*<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup>Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup>so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **1 Corinthians 15:47-49**

*<sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

► **Extra material: A synopsis of Covenant of Works by Ligonier Ministries.**

God entered into a covenant of works with Adam when he was created and placed in the Garden of Eden. During the period of probation that defined Adam's life in the garden, he was good, but not perfect. If he obeyed God, he could have earned positive righteousness and made himself "better" in the eyes of God. But it was also possible for him to disobey God and fall out of favor with Him.

God's test of Adam's obedience centered around the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" ([Gen. 2:17](#)). This was the one tree from which Adam could not eat, and Adam could have demonstrated His obedience and trust in the Lord had he not eaten of it.

The temptation by the serpent in [Genesis 3](#) shows us that Adam and Eve did have some knowledge of good and evil before eating of this tree. After all, they knew it was good to obey God's command, and they knew it was evil to disobey His command. The serpent did not say that they would gain a knowledge of good and evil if they ate the fruit. Rather, he said that if they ate the fruit they would be "like God, knowing good and evil" (v. 5). In essence, the serpent tempted them to become like the Most High. He tempted them to reach out as autonomous agents, to deny the sufficiency of God's commands, and to eat the fruit as if they had no need to answer to anyone. He was tempting them to think that they were, and should be, fully independent of God.

Nevertheless, Adam, just like us, was not autonomous. God tells us what is right and wrong, and we have no right to question His wisdom. Adam and Eve ate of the fruit and were cursed. This curse has many aspects: difficulty in work ([Gen. 3:17-18](#)), hardship in childbirth (v. 16), and death (v. 19). They were also barred from the tree of life (v. 22-24). Adam and Eve did not die immediately, however. Even though God promised death, He chose to delay death for them so that they, and their descendants, might find repentance. He killed an animal and clothed them (v. 21). Typologically, this event points forward to the day when God's own Son would be killed and when His people would be clothed with Christ's righteousness. The covenant of works had been broken, but God was already graciously working to restore His creation. (Ligonier Ministries)