

OUR COVENANT KEEPING GOD

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To understand the perspective that our God has and to be able to make that perspective our perspective we must have a thorough understanding of what covenant means.

- The Hebrew word 'berit/berith/beriyth' is usually translated into English as the word 'covenant'.
- It describes a compact or treaty or legal contract made by passing between pieces of flesh.
- The post-modern world of the 21st century does not use blood covenants to expand their relationships anymore.
- They use written contracts or treaties; something in writing, because their word is not strong enough to bind them to actually do what they promised they would do.
- But there are societies in the earth today that still use blood covenants to expand their relationships.
- They understand the strength of blood covenant because they understand the consequences of not fulfilling your word.
- You can not pass between pieces of flesh without blood having been shed.
- There is no shedding of blood just signing a piece of paper—the consequences of breaking your word are not seen.
- The western world still uses the marriage covenant to form new families, but in the majority of those marriage covenants blood has not been shed because there are very few virgins who make it to the honeymoon bed.
- But notice, the Hebrew word for covenant describes the legal contract made by passing between pieces of flesh, which could describe the sexual intercourse of the groom and bride—this is what makes marriage a covenant relationship!

Let's focus on the covenants that God has made with mankind.

- Adamic or Edenic -- mankind
- Noahic-- mankind
- Palestinian or Land-- Israel
- Mosaic-- Israel
- Davidic—David's family line
- New—every human being that chooses to enter through Jesus Christ

- The first six covenants have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ and He established the New Covenant.
- Notice that the covenants are not dissolved just because one party breaks their word.
- The covenant is in force until a death occurs.
- The party who breaks their promise made in the covenant falls under a curse.
- They are still obligated to the terms of the covenant.
- Repentance is the only thing that will remove the curses.
- Jesus died; the old covenants have been dissolved and replaced with the New Covenant!
- Repentance ushers you into the New Covenant and Kingdom life!
- The curses are gone and you are heirs of the promises!

Psalm 106

- God is good!
- Why is He good?
- Because He is a covenant keeping God!
- It doesn't matter how many times you fail to keep your part of the covenant, He is always waiting and watching for your repentance so that He can restore you to your rightful position in the Kingdom!
- Did you notice the longsuffering and patience that God showed to Israel?
- Abba IS the good, good Father who is standing on the front porch looking down the driveway—searching the horizon for the prodigal to return...
- He's always waiting, always expecting the best from you...
- Always listening for your cry for a father's help...

God's Perspective:

- Everyone has value...
- Why? Because they were created in His image and in His likeness...
- This is a sobering truth and one that we need to re-examine to make sure our attitudes and behavior is lining up with this truth.
- Example: how many times have you or others you know made fun of someone because of their looks?
- How are you seeing people?
- What assumptions are you making about folks?

- When you assume—you are judging.
- When you judge—you are in disobedience and in danger of judgment yourself!
- Everyone has purpose...
- Sometimes they just don't know it.
- They are lost...
- He has expectations for His children:
- To love like He does...
- To walk in integrity like He does...

Let's break that down and really see what integrity looks like:

- Integrity is doing what is right even when no one else is looking...
- Even when it costs you something...
- It is keeping your word...
- It is fulfilling your promise or vow even to your own hurt...
- It is getting to work early if you are going to do personal things first and starting your work when your time clock is punched.
- It is doing your work in excellence—going the extra mile if necessary...
- It is being truthful on your taxes...
- It is bringing an error that is in your favor to the attention of the cashier so the correct charges are paid...
- It is waiting to talk with the person whose car you dented in the parking lot and seeing to it that repairs are made at your expense instead of just driving off...
- It's making things right when you mess up...
- Think about it: Have you messed up?
- Is there something you've given your word on that you have not fulfilled?
- Ask God to show you and then repent and make restitution!
- Then watch the blessings begin to flow into your life...

Our God is a covenant keeping God!

- He keeps His word!
- He keeps His promises!
- When He makes a vow you can be sure it will be paid!

- Because of the New Covenant, you can be certain that every promise and every benefit that is stated in this covenant can be possessed by you!

Under the Adamic or Edenic covenant the terms were obedience and living with a clean conscience.

- Jesus was always obedient and He always had a clean conscience because He lived a life of integrity.
- Our position in Christ under the New Covenant guarantees us the power to live a life of obedience and integrity through our faith in Jesus by the grace of God.
- How? Through the transforming power of grace that comes to us when we release our faith to God.

Your responsibility to the New Covenant is to:

- Renew your mind with the Word of God.
- Present your body as a living sacrifice to God, acknowledging that your body doesn't belong to you, but has been bought with a very high price and is now the temple of Holy Spirit.
- Developing an intimate relationship with Abba, Jesus, and don't forget Holy Spirit.
- As you do this, you will transform back into the original creature – the image and likeness of God.
- His image bearer in the earth!

It begins with understanding covenant:

- Our God is a covenant keeping God.
- He expects His children to be a covenant keeping people.
- That means be faithful and do what you say you are going to do—no matter what...
- As you live this way, you will begin to experience the blessings of the New Covenant.
- Whatever a man sows, that and only that, is what they shall reap!