

**“Covenant Love”**  
February 4, 2018

**CORE-** All who are “in Christ” have a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP with Him. “Covenant” is the most unbreakable bond of relationship known to humans.

- BUILT ON unconditional love—initiated by One and freely given
- BOUGHT BY blood sacrifice
- BOUND BY “sacred” oaths (“cherished”—*He holds them close to heart*)

**1. Initiated by LOVE**

- Jesus- “Exact representation of God’s glory” (Heb. 1:3); “See Me—seen the Father” (John 14:9); “Guarantor of a better covenant” (Heb. 7:22)

SEE Hebrews 8:6-13

All that was *shadowed in the OT—is fulfilled in the NT:*

**OLD COVENANT-** a wonderful covenant—made with Israel at Mt. Sinai—mediated by Moses—built on the Law & the blood of animal sacrifice—to cover the sins of all who broke the Law.

The seal/mark of covenant was male circumcision. Promises were exchanged; God fulfilled His promises—yet people struggled (and failed) in their own strength to remain devoted to Him. (Romans 8:3-4)

**NEW COVENANT-** “New” meant more than slight improvements of the old—rather, “new in kind”—far beyond anything created or comprehended or dreamed of. (It rendered significant aspects of the “old covenant” obsolete.)

Made with every tribe, tongue, and nation—at Mt. Calvary—mediated by Jesus—who fulfilled every requirement of the Law and sacrificed His own blood “once for all!” Both men and women could equally be “sealed by the Holy Spirit.” This Good News brought “the power of God to every believer” (Romans 1:16)—empowering them to keep the promises!

**2. Restored all that was LOST**

- Our LIFE (“death”- *separation*; Tree of Life; Vine and branches)
- Our IDENTITY (His children—all will “know Me”)
- Our PURPOSE (“Fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory”)
- Our HOME (“Father’s house—rooms for you”; “to the Father”)
- Our DOMINION OVER SIN (Titus 2:12; “no longer have dominion”)
- Our PARTNERSHIP with one another (divisions broken—one holy nation—sons & daughters)
- His GLORY (Experience the “weight” of His Presence; Express His nature)

### 3. Brought us into His RELIABLE LOVE

- One OT word encompasses the heart of “covenant life” (i.e., living in this circle of unbroken friendship with God) is the word “HESED”—translated as “mercy, goodness, steadfast love”—most clearly translated as “LOVINGKINDNESS” (over 250 times)!
- Simply—His constant affection—His faithful devotion to every promise.
- Hebrew word for “IDEAL FAMILY LOVE.”
- Constant subject of psalms & declarations:
  - “Your lovingkindness (hesed), O Lord, reaches to the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.” (Psalm 36:5)
  - “It is good...to declare Your lovingkindness (hesed) in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.” (Psalm 92:1,2)
  - NOTE: Even after Jerusalem was conquered by Babylon—and they were taken into captivity, because of their rebellion against God—declared: “Through the Lord’s lovingkindness (hesed) we are not consumed; because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22,23)

## CONCLUSION-

**We enter into COVENANT—BY CHOICE!**

Note: Not coerced into covenant.

**GOD** put 2 trees in the Garden—a place where they would CHOOSE to “obey” Him [NOTE: “OBEY”—to draw near to]

**COMMUNION—a fresh choice to receive Him!**