

# CREDO

## 6. COVENANT

If you are joining us for the first time, we want to welcome you to Monday Night @Metro. We are working our way through a series of Bible studies we have titled “CREDO.” At the heart of this series are a few really big goals: <sup>1</sup> We want to leave you with a solid grasp of the Bible and especially the great doctrinal themes of the Bible. <sup>2</sup> We want to leave you with a better and a stronger grip on Jesus and what life in Jesus looks like. **Lastly**, as a result of studying through these great truths you will be able to understand who we are as church; what we believe, and how these great doctrines of Scripture shape the way we live and breathe as a community of believers; shape the way we live out the purposes of God in and through Metro.

This is a lot of content! These are very large themes — very important concepts. It’s actually very counter-cultural for so many people to be digging into a series like this because most people deal with their faith on the basis of how they FEEL about their faith rather than looking to see what the Bible has to say about faith. A bunch of you have been with us from week one — and a good number of you went through this series back in 2010. I say this as a compliment — that makes you kind of FREAKISH — but in a very Jesus way!

This evening we are going to look at the Doctrine of Covenant. This is a HUGE Biblical concept. We find the word COVENANT 293 times in ESV. In the course of tonight’s study we are going to discover the amazing reality that the God of the Bible is a COVENANT God — and that He loving pursues man for the purpose of covenant relationship.

**I found it interesting** that when I was preparing for this study back in 2010 I found two guys who began their study on this subject with the same question. It was interesting because they were two *totally* different guys. One was a very hip, young, intense guy from Seattle. The other guy I know, he’s from Georgia and is pretty much the “home-spun,” “Georgia Cracker” kind of guy. But BOTH of them began their study of this topic with the exact

same question — a question that is really important to this subject matter:  
**Who has most painfully betrayed you?**

Perhaps a parent — a friend — a spouse — a partner. You loved this person, and you believed they loved you. But their betrayal was so massive that even today — the pain is still there. When you recall this person's voice, or touch, or face, it sends shivers down your spine. In your relationship with that person you were honest, and humble, and giving, and trusting. In return they deceived you, hurt you, manipulated you and perhaps abused you. You gave — you cared — they betrayed. I'm asking you to just for a moment to try recall the pain you felt — or you're feeling even at this moment: The shock, the shame, the confusion, the question *How could they?* The disappointment, the anger, the loneliness.

Who is it that comes to mind? Who is that person who has so absolutely betrayed you that you don't even want to think about them, and deep down you'd like to never even remember them? **And what is your response?** What do you feel, even now? What would you like to say, even now? What do you want to do, even now?

I want you to think about that person and that betrayal because as we deal with this Doctrine of Covenant we have to understand that **you and I have betrayed God.**

Up to this point in this series we have spent hours together in the first three chapters of Genesis. We've seen how God made the heavens and the earth — then he carefully prepared the earth for you and I to live in. Then God made our first parents in His image and likeness. God blessed them — God spoke to them. In Psalm 8 we're told that God crowned them with glory and honor! God gave them tremendous freedom. He prepared for them a perfect environment to live in. He brought the man and the woman together to know and experience love, intimacy, pleasure and joy. He said that everything created was theirs to have and enjoy except one thing: The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**THEN — in every sense of the word — our first parents utterly and completely betrayed God.** They **disregarded** Him as their loving creator.

They **dishonored** Him by believing the lie instead of believing the perfect Word of their loving Creator God and they **disobeyed** Him.

**As we look at the world around us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century** — the sons and daughters of Adam (you and me and all of mankind) are walking through life with a limp — licking our wounds if-you-would. As we learned last week, the **cause** of all of the pain and pathos and brokenness in the world can be traced man's betrayal of God. In the medical world we have the term "pathology." It's the study of the causes and effects of diseases. ." The pathologist studies things that are sick and malignant in the body. If a doctor thinks you have cancer, they take a piece of that tissue and send it to the "pathologist. Pathology exists because of the betrayal that man perpetrated against God. Throughout all of history since Genesis 3 mankind (that includes you and me – we don't want to get lost in an impersonal mass of humans) has been oblivious to the way that **each of us** have **betrayed** God.

The betrayal that God has endured is **infinitely worse than any** betrayal that **anyone** has ever or will ever endure. Put yourself in the position of God. If you had done all of this for man and then were betrayed, sinned against, **how would you have responded?**

I'm so glad for the Word of God because the Bible tells us the amazing way that God has responded to our betrayal. Most of the time when you and I are betrayed and wounded — our response is either fight or flight. We either want to get revenge or we want to remove ourselves — distance ourselves from our betrayer so that our betrayer can't hurt us again. **But not God!** Amazingly — God pursues. It's not fight or flight for God! It's not revenge or remove for God! Instead, He draws near to deal with man's sin — and with unfailing He love seeks to enter into relationship with us! **God's response** to mankind's unspeakable betrayal is described in the Bible by the word **COVENANT**.

### **WHAT IS A COVENANT?**

Let's start with a very broad stroke answer. A covenant is an agreement that sets out the terms of a relationship. You see, from the beginning God

created man for fellowship. God wants to know and enjoy man. God wants men and women to know and enjoy Him. Yet real fellowship doesn't just happen. Real fellowship can't be sustained without terms that define that relationship and govern that relationship. Terms are needed to govern, guide, and glue it together. Without a covenant, a relationship has no definition. Without a covenant a relationship lacks substance, and meaning; lacks backbone (if-you-would), has nothing to keep it standing erect. Covenant defines a relationship. It adds value and stability.

**Again** — Covenant is such a huge concept and theme of the Bible that you find the word COVENANT 293 times (in ESV). There are covenants between human beings. There are covenants between God and man. Tonight (for time's sake) we are only concerning ourselves with the covenant between God and us.

When the Bible speaks of God being in covenant with us it reveals to us something of His nature and attributes. Here are the things that God's covenants reveal to us about God

**FIRST — These covenants reveal that God is gracious.**

You see, God owes us nothing. He could have responded to Adam and Eve's betrayal by simply saying: *You sinned — You die — You go to hell — GAME OVER — that's it. I set out the terms for relationship. You rebelled, now you die.* But he didn't! God is gracious! He owes us nothing — yet He pursues us for the purpose of relationship. I have to tell you that I am more in love with God than ever before because in this doctrine of covenant I see the infinite intensity with which God pursues us.

**Second — These covenants reveal that God is sovereign.**

God is the **initiator** of the covenants — God **initiates** relationship with man — We **respond**. We didn't ask Him to pursue us. We didn't ask him to love us. We didn't ask him to care for us. Independent of you and me — out of His own heart and His own will — God sovereignly initiated these covenants and this covenant relationship.

### **THIRD — These covenants reveal that He is the Lord**

As I just said, out of His own will God enters into a covenantal relationship with humanity, God sovereignly institutes a life-and-death bond. Thus, a covenant is *a life and death relationship with God on his terms.*

**HE establishes** the **terms** of the covenant and relationship. No contract negotiation — no collective bargaining agreement. That's how man does life. But that's not how God does covenant. There is no Quid Pro Quo (no this for that). God is the one who defines the terms and the relationship **because** He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He is the creator — and we are created. Time and again we read in the Old Testament — **“Behold, I establish my covenant with you”** — *It's my covenant — I define the terms of the relationship — I establish it (bring it about).*

### **FOURTH — These covenants reveal that God is holy.**

The literal language often times used in the Old Testament is a **cutting of a covenant.**

Covenant = b<sup>e</sup>rîyth (ber-eeth') — it carries the sense of cutting

A covenant is “a bond in blood that is sovereignly administered ” (O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, p. 4). In Old Testament cultures when covenants were established between individuals, the parties of the covenant would take an animal — sacrifice it — split it in two — and lay the separate halves in a way to create a path between them. There would be blood everywhere. Then the person entering into the covenant would walk between the two halves and in so doing declare that if he did not fulfill the obligations of this covenant, he would accept the same fate as this animal — he should be put to death. In fact, this is pictured for us in GENESIS 15 in the covenant God made with Abraham.

When God enters into a covenantal relationship with humanity, God sovereignly institutes a life-and-death bond. He is saying — *I am holy. I'm the Lord. I am other-than you guys. You guys change your mind all the time. You shake hands, and break the promise. You sign papers and break the*

*contract, need lawyers and have to go to court. But when I cut a covenant with you (when I b<sup>e</sup>rîyth), I will honor it because I am not like you — I am Holy.*

#### **FIFTH — These covenants reveal that God is loving**

In these covenants we see that He loves us and blesses us even though we don't deserve. He wants our hearts and minds to be **changed by His covenant love**. And if you've never experienced His love — know this: His love CHANGES everything! His love CHANGES you forever.

#### **SIXTH — These covenants reveal that God is just**

In each covenant God deals with the problem of sin. Each covenant has **conditions** and **consequences**. In the **conditions** God says — *this is right, this is wrong*. In the **consequences** God says — *I will discipline you if you sin. But I will also continue to pursue you so that you can learn to be obedient*. And we don't want to miss this: Each consecutive covenant is building towards the day when God will deal with sin once and for all by way of the cross of His Son, Jesus! THAT is the telemetry — the trajectory of these covenants.

**SEVEN —** As the story of God's pursuit of man develops throughout the Old Testament — as each successive covenant is established by God **WE SEE THE REALITY OF COVENANT LOVE**.

There is one particular term used to describe this covenant love: **chêsêd (kheh'-sed)**.

**QUOTE:** Vine's Expository Dictionary, "The entire history of God's covenantal relationship with Israel can be summarized in terms of **chêsêd (kheh'-sed)**."

**chêsêd** is God's loving kindness. **chêsêd** is the consistent, unfailing, relentless, constantly pursuing, one-way love of God.

It is translated loving kindness, mercy (Psalm 23 – surely goodness and *chêsêd* will follow me all the days of my life). It's translated steadfast love, loyal love, devotion, commitment, or reliability. In the Hebrew Scriptures, *Chêsêd* refers to a sort of love that has been promised and is owed. THAT is God's covenant love.

**THIS IS HUGE — Chêsêd** is the way God acts towards those who have betrayed Him through sin — and that would be you; that would be me! THAT should wreck us in the most beautiful way! God is responding to us in a way that I am assuming none of us have responded to those who have betrayed us and hurt us. And THAT is what makes God holy. THAT is what makes Him *other than*. I'm so glad God is holy!

**So let's walk through these covenants.** As we walk through the covenants in the Old Testament we don't want to miss how one builds on the next — and while the one is still binding there are additional benefits of blessings and obligations that are added to the covenant. They keep building and building until we come to the New Covenant established in Jesus.

**Some call this the drama of redemption.** If you look at the story of the Bible you discover that there are key people who step out on to the stage of this great drama: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David — and ultimately Jesus.

They step out to participate in covenant with God as representatives of those who can also be in covenant relationship with God. And one after another — we see through a very long period of history God's **chêsêd** — His covenant faithfulness to undeserving sinners. And I cannot repeat this enough: I pray that by the end of tonight you will know the covenant love of God to undeserving sinners

**So let's look at them**

**THE ADAMIC COVENANT.**

Let me preface this by saying that there is a debate as to whether or not Adam was in a covenant with God. But in [Hosea 6:7](#) we are told that *we all through sin have broken our covenant with God as Adam did*. I think it's reasonable to conclude from the statement in [Hosea 6:7](#) that Adam was in covenant with God. What is unquestionable is that Adam was in relationship with God — that God loved Adam — blessed Adam — God had a relationship with Adam.

Turn with me to [Genesis 1](#) (we've been there a number of times in this series) and we will see this very special relationship that Adam had with God.

**SIDE NOTE:** We live in a day when people talk a lot about community. Community is great. But I'd like for us to think about this: Perhaps the Biblical concept of community is best understood in this thing called **covenant** — which is more than just *I know you* or *we have a friendship*. Christians are in a very real way bound one to another in a very deep, very profound and very enduring way.

[Genesis 1:27](#) — here is the covenant that Adam had with God.

[27](#)So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28](#)And God blessed them. Here we see that God is a blessing God.

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.” [29](#)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. [30](#)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. [31](#)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.

Now we are moving into DAY 7 — the high point of the creation narrative — man resting in the presence of God.

## Chapter 2:16-17

<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.”

**CRUCIAL INSIGHT:** As we walk through these covenants we are going to see that there are SIX consistent elements found in each of them

- 1.) There is a mediator
- 2.) There are blessings
- 3.) There are Conditions/Consequences
- 4.) There is a sign of the covenant
- 5.) There is a covenant Community.
- 6.) There is a promise of Jesus.

## THE ADAMIC COVENANT

**1.) Mediator** — In the Adamic covenant the mediator — the head that represents humanity — is Adam. He is standing there in our place as our father and our representative. We saw the TRAGIC consequences of Adam being our head — our representative — when we looked at the doctrine of Sin last week.

**2.) Blessings** — How did God bless Adam? Well it says that God *blessed* him. God gave him life — gave him the earth — gave him the garden — gave him food to eat — gave him a wife to love. God walked with man and God spoke with man. God blessed man in every way.

**3.) Conditions/Consequences** — What was the condition? Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What was the consequence? If you do you will die. Spiritual death immediately — separation from God. Eventually physical — cessation of biological life.

**4.) The sign of the covenant**— What was the sign of the Adamic Covenant? I believe the sign of the covenant was the Sabbath: On the 7<sup>th</sup> day God rested from His creative works and man enjoyed fellowship with God.

**5.) The covenant community** — I believe the metaphor for the covenant community here is marriage; the way that the man and the woman are in relationship together. As you read through the Old Testament you find God speaking of His relationship with the nation of Israel in terms of marriage.

**6.) The promise of Jesus** — Ultimately Adam and Eve sin in **Genesis 3** and in that sin they violate the covenant. The sin of Adam and Eve is the ultimate betrayal of God on every level. They betrayed God by believing the lies of a serpent Satan. **The promise of Jesus** is made in **Genesis 3:15** — that Jesus would come as the One who would slay the serpent — Satan would hurt him but Jesus would crush Satan.

That's the Adamic covenant.

Imagine at this point you are God. Do you bless anymore? Do you pursue anymore? Do you love anymore? Do you try again? God does — because God is good. BECAUSE God is good, He keeps loving, He keeps pursuing, he keeps caring.

**This leads us to the next covenant.**

## **THE NOAHIC COVENANT**

Turn to **Genesis 6**. (We're going to be turning a lot pages of the Bible tonight — we're going to cover a huge chunk of the Bible tonight).

Adam and Eve sinned, they betrayed God, they rebelled against God. How does God respond? In the face of their treacherous betrayal God promised a savior and continued pursuing man for covenant relationship.

Adam and Eve had children, their children had children — generations ensued from his family. **How does the human race respond to God?** Do they even see the goodness of God towards man following the fall? In seeing the goodness of God towards them following the fall do they say — *We should love God?* **Here is how they respond to the chêsêd love of God.**

**Genesis 6:5** The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

God's **chêsêd** — His Covenant love — is met with betrayal on a GLOBAL SCALE!

**Genesis 6:6-7** And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

One guy said, *God is in a relationship of pain.* God is in a relationship where he continually and globally betrayed.

<sup>7</sup>So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

God says, "I am going to flood the earth, I am going to wipe out everyone and everything and start over."

**Verse 8** is HUGE!

<sup>8</sup>but Noah found **FAVOR** in the eyes of the Lord?

You want to highlight that word — underline it, asterisk it, draw arrows pointing to it. **FAVOR** — that’s the Hebrew word for grace — unmerited love, undeserved affection.

**Genesis 6:9** “These are the generations of Noah, Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation, Noah walked with God.”

MOST professing believers misunderstand the account of Noah. They think that God spared Noah and his family from the flood because he was the good guy and everybody else’s thoughts were continually evil.

It DOES say that Noah was a righteous man — that he walked with God. **But what does it say before that?** That he *found favor* or *grace in the eyes of the Lord*. Noah was not a great guy. Noah was a sinner just like everyone else — just like you and just like me. God looked at the earth and said ***everyone is only doing evil all the time — everyone has betrayed me — no one deserves love — but I’ll love this guy.*** Noah was a sinner saved by grace!

WHY Noah? **Not because** Noah is good — but because God is. **Not because** Noah deserves it — but because he found favor or grace in the eyes of God. **This is a picture of election.** God looks at the earth and says *no one deserves anything — I will be good to this person even though they don’t deserve it.*

**DON’T MISS THIS —** We enter into covenant relationship with God by finding favor or grace in his eyes. If you are Christian tonight there is NO POINT for boasting. You and I are **no better** than anyone. We just found favor grace that’s all.

**The flood comes** — everyone on the earth perishes except for Noah and his family. Go forward to **Genesis 9** —

**Genesis 9:8-17** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“Behold, I establish my covenant with you (**there is our word**) and your offspring after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the

livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant (**there is our word again**) that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant (**there is our word again**) between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant (**there is our word again**) that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**Again** — there are 6 aspects to the Noahic covenant.

**Who is the Mediator** — Who is that stands between God and humanity as the representative or the head? It's Noah. He is the man that God has shown favor to.

**How does God bless him?** God gives Noah children and God makes a promise that He will never again destroy the earth by a flood. I'm not a scientist — but I can guarantee you that the earth will not be destroyed by a flood — because God said it wouldn't.

**What is the condition of the covenant?** God forbids the taking of human life — God's people — those in Covenant relationship with God — are to honor the sanctity of human life.

**What is the sign of the covenant?** Let me add this thought regarding “the sign” of the covenant — The sign of the covenant is **internal** and **external**.

**What's the internal sign of the covenant?** How do we know that Noah is in covenant relationship with God? **Internally** he has **faith**. He trusts God.

How do we know he had this faith internally? It had NEVER rained before — and yet he invests years of labor and massive resources to build the ark — and while he undertakes this massive project everybody mocked him. He was like a man building an aircraft carrier in the middle of the Sahara Desert when there was never even such a thing as a row boat. And when asked why he was building that strange thing he said — *It's going to rain*. That's a guy with a lot of faith. He trusts God. God said *it's going to rain* — *a lot. You better build a boat*. Noah trusted God and built the boat. That is the **internal** sign of the covenant that God sees.

**What's the external sign of the covenant?** The rainbow. It's God way of reminding us that He is never again going to destroy the world by a flood — no matter how hard and long it's raining.

**What is the covenant community?** It's Noah and his family.

**What is the promise of the coming of Jesus?** Jesus is foreshadowed in the way as Noah and his family found favor and grace in the eyes of the Lord and were saved from judgment and death. In the same way Jesus will give us favor and grace from God and by that grace — through faith — He will save us from judgment and death.

The **Adamic** covenant

The **Noahic** covenant

Following God's promise to never again destroy the world by a flood you would think that the descendants of Noah would respond by loving and worshipping the true and living God. You would think! But not! God is again betrayed! A guy named Nimrod comes along (we find him in Genesis 10). Nimrod makes war against God and leads a worldwide revolt against God and against the Word of God.

God had told the Noah and his descendants to spread out on the face of the earth. In opposition to the clear directive of God Nimrod gathers the tribes together in the plains of Shinar, near the city of Babel. We are also told in **Genesis 11:3** that Nimrod builds a tower to the sky — and that he coats with pitch. Pitch is a waterproofing material. Noah used it in the

construction of the ark. Nimrod does NOT believe the promise of God at all. In his rebellion against God Nimrod builds this tall structure and waterproofs it. THAT was a big statement against God: God is a liar — God will flood the earth again. Nimrod convinced mankind that God is not to be trusted. God is the bad guy, and Nimrod is the good guy saving the planet from a lying God. **ONCE AGAIN** — man failed to embrace the covenant love of God offered in the Noahic Covenant.

**THIS IS SO AMAZING** — Did God give up His pursuit? Amazingly —NO!

God LOVES man — with a covenant love that pursues relationship with man — **chêsêd**.

Satan is the great counterfeit. Jesus said that Satan is a liar — the Father of lies and a murder. Jesus said Satan only wants steal, kill and destroy. So to accomplish his wicked ends, Satan chose a man, Nimrod. Satan chose a place, Babel. Satan chose a means, fear.

God, in His relentless pursuit of sinful man, continues with His covenant plans and purposes. God chooses a man — Abraham. God chooses a place — Canaan. God chooses a means — faith — by which He would provide salvation to all generations. That leads us to

## **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.**

Turn to **Genesis 12**

As we look at this covenant we want to remember that the first thing we learned about Noah is that he wasn't a great guy. One of the first things Noah does after the flood is get drunk, get naked and pass out. He is not the best guy. He is a sinner saved by grace.

When we first meet Abraham we find that he was not a great guy either. He was from a region that was godless. He comes from an area called the Ur of the Chaldees. This is the birth place of every false religious system of the world. It is the same region where they came together to build a godless society that functioned without God — the centerpiece of which

was the Tower of Babel. His dad was godless. When we meet Abraham he doesn't know or worship the true and living God of the Bible. When we first meet the man who will become the progenitor of the Jews — he was just an every day, run of the mill pagan worshipping false gods.

**That's *who* Abraham was and *what* Abraham was until [Genesis 12](#)**

[Genesis 12:1](#) <sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram

**AGAIN** — God is the **initiator**. God is pursuing an idol worshipping pagan.

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God is going to do this by way of a very old man a very old barren woman — both of whom are way beyond the age of child bearing.

God says to Abram — *You have to trust Me here. Here's the plan. Leave everything you know and go to a place you've never been to and never seen. No need for a map — I'll show you the way. On top of that that — Trust me — you and Sarah are going to have a baby — and from that baby will come a nation. I'm going to bless you and make your name great. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who dishonor you — **and here's the point of all of this Abraham** — in you all the families of the earth will be blessed. You are a nobody — I am going to make you a somebody. You are going to be the head of a brand new nation through which I will bless the nation's of the earth.”*

**Fast-Forward to [Genesis 17](#)** — There we find the record of Abraham and the covenant of circumcision. Abraham is 99 years old at that moment. He would have been voted **least likely** to be making babies and founding nations. The Lord appeared to Abraham

**Genesis 17:1** <sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my **covenant** — **(there is our word again)** between me and you

and may multiply you greatly.” — give you kids and grand kids and great grand kids.

<sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“Behold, **my covenant** is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>**I will** make you exceedingly fruitful, and **I will** make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And **I will** establish **my covenant** between **me and you** and **your offspring** after you throughout their generations for **an everlasting covenant**, to be God **to you** and to **your offspring** after you. <sup>8</sup>And **I** (not Allah) **will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I** (Yahweh) **will be their God.**”

Let me read you a quote from a guy who had significant influence 10 years ago — and disappeared until a year or two ago when he started gaining traction in England

**QUOTE: Brian McLaren** (he said he feels) — *The need to confront the terrible, deadly, distorted, yet popular theologies associated with Christian Zionism and deterministic dispensationalism. These systems of belief — so common among my fellow evangelical Christians — too often lead people to act as if Jewish people have God-given rights but Palestinians do not. They use a discredited hermeneutic (way of interpreting the Bible) to imply that God shows favoritism — that God is concerned for justice for one group of people and not for others.*

We just read from Genesis 17:1-8. We highlighted a number of times **my covenant is with you** — **I will make my covenant with you**. Who is the **you** God is speaking to? Abraham!

*I have made **you** the father of a multitude of nations.*

*<sup>6</sup>I will make **you** exceedingly fruitful, and I will make **you** into nations, and kings shall come from you.*

*<sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and **you** and **your** offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to **you** and to **your** offspring after you.*

*<sup>8</sup>And I will give to **you** and to **your offspring** after you **the land** of your sojournings, **all the land of Canaan**, for an **everlasting possession***

**There is NOTHING to interpret there** ( in fact there's nothing to misinterpret there) — **just READ the promise!**

***Isaiah 51:2** <sup>2</sup>Look unto **Abraham** your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called **him alone**, and blessed **him**, and increased **him**.*

There is nothing to interpret — there is nothing to misinterpret.

QUESTION: HOW does God promising the land to Abraham and his descendants = injustice? McLaren refers to this as **deterministic** dispensationalism. As you read the simple words of these passages God IS deterministic. He did determine who He would bless. He did determine that it would be a guy named Abraham. He did determine that He would bless Abraham and his descendants.

One of the reasons we are doing this series is so that when you hear guys like this and stuff like this you can say — TIME OUT!

What is NOT deterministic about this? Of course it's deterministic! Of course there are dispensations — He is dealing with a people, and He is NEVER going to be done with them. He says that it is an EVERLASTING covenant between Himself and the descendants of Abraham.

**CRUCIAL:** Turn to **Daniel 9:24** — “Seventy weeks are decreed about **your people** and **your holy city**, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin,

and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

God has determined a TIMELINE that is exclusive to His dealings — NOT with the Palestinians or Arabs (Christian or Muslim) — but with Daniel’s people and the city of Jerusalem.

There is NO INJUSTICE with God. All of His ways are just and true. Choosing Abraham does not make God unjust. And surely, the nation of Israel should not be unjust or inhumane in any way in their dealings with the Arabs world. But when it comes to that little strip of land God has been very clear about who He has given it to.

**Genesis 17:9** And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup>This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup>You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup>He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup>both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

**Fast-forward to one last chapter concerning Abraham Chapter 22.**

God does bless and does give him a son named Isaac. His name means *laughter*, because when they were told they were going to be making babies they laughed. They love Isaac — he is the son of the promise through whom will come the nation of Israel that will be a blessing to the nations of the earth because the Savior of the world would come from that nation. But in **Genesis 22** God tells Abraham to take his ONLY son whom he LOVES much (first use of the word “love” in the Bible) and sacrifice him on Mount Moriah (the highest point of Moriah is in the city of Jerusalem

In the New Testament we are told that Abraham had such great faith in the covenant promise of God that he knew that even if Isaac died God would resurrect him from death **because** the promise of the covenant was wrapped up in Isaac.

By **Genesis 22** Isaac is young, healthy, adult man — just like Jesus was. He is the beloved and only son — as Jesus is. Isaac was the first born son — as Jesus is called “first born”. He carries the wood for his own slaughter on his back as Jesus did. Abraham and Isaac actually go to the place where Jesus would be crucified. Isaac willingly like Jesus lays down his life at the hand of his father — as Jesus would.

We’re told in **Genesis 22** that just as his dad Abraham has the knife in his hand and he is ready to slaughter his son God speaks from heaven and says — *“You have trusted me, no need to slaughter your son. One day — on this very mount — I will provide myself the sacrifice.* This entire moment in Abraham and Isaac’s life was a living prophecy — it was foreshadowing — it was the anticipation and expectation of Jesus — THE SON who would carry His own wood to his place of slaughter to die in our place for our sins.

**Genesis 22:15** <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven

The phrase THE angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus (Theophany)

<sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**Let’s summarize the six aspects of *this* covenant**

**1.) Who is the mediator, who is between humanity and God?** It's Abraham.

**2.) What is the blessing?** The **Abrahamic Covenant** consists of a three-fold blessing **that shapes the rest of history and the rest of the Bible.**

God promises a land, a nation, and a blessing. God gives Abraham a chunk of land – not just Israel, but most of the Middle East. He promises him vast descendants that will form the Hebrew nation — And through Abraham's distant heir, Jesus, all the nations will be blessed. **Sandy Adams** has a shorthand version of God promise

*sod, seed, salvation.*

**3.) What are the conditions?** Obedience. His obedience was demonstrated in his willingness to take his only son, whom he loved to Moriah.

**4.) What is the sign of the covenant?** The **internal sign** — it's faith. Abraham BELIEVED the Lord and the Lord accounted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). The **external sign** of the covenant for Abraham — Circumcision of the male son on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.

**5.) What is the covenant community?** Well it's Abraham's family and the nation that would come from the family.

**6.) What is the promise of Jesus?** In **Galatians 3** Paul says

*Gal. 3:16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," **who is Christ.***

Through Abraham would come **one man** who would be the blessing to the nations of the earth. Who is that? Jesus. This is why the New Testament starts with genealogies in Luke and Matthew. They trace His lineage back to Abraham. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The **Adamic** covenant  
The **Noahic** covenant  
The **Abrahamic** covenant

The next covenant is found in the very next book following **Genesis**  
— **Exodus** where we meet a man named Moses

## **THE MOSAIC COVENANT**

**AGAIN** — From one generation to the next — God keeps pursuing, keeps loving, keeps blessing, keeps speaking.

**And AGAIN** — Moses was no great guy — he was a murderer (**Exodus 2**) saved by grace.

**Exodus 3:1** Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And **the angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” <sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup>Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>And he said, “**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**”

God hearkens all the way back to the Abrahamic Covenant

<sup>6</sup>...And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.  
<sup>7</sup>Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of **my people** (Why are they God’s people? Because he made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants) **who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters**

Centuries later the descendants of Abraham went down to Egypt numbering 70 souls (including the family of Joseph) — 400 years later they

are a nation of several million. Only at this point in history they are a nation of slaves.

**Exodus 6:7-8** — we will read one more section then we will go to **Chapter 19**

<sup>7</sup>I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup>I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.”

There’s that pesky “favoritism of God” that guys like McLaren and his ilk. Have such a hard time with.

**Exodus 19** — At this point God has crushed Pharaoh — liberated the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — and parted the Red Sea. They are free and at the base of Mount Sinai where God is going to give them the Ten Commandments.

**Exodus 19:5-6** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup>and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

**1.) Who’s the mediator?** Moses — He stands as the representative and head between God and the people

**2.) What is the blessing?** FIRST — they were redeemed from slavery and death. They were set free from bondage under Pharaoh **so that** they would be free to worship their redeemer God.

**3.) What is the condition of the Covenant?** God gives His Law through Moses. The first five books of the Old Testament are called the Pentateuch (= book in five parts). There are over 600 laws in the Pentateuch. So they are in Covenant with God — God gives them laws for their well being.

**4.) What is the sign of the covenant?** What is the **internal sign** of the covenant? Again — it's faith. Trust in God — leaving Egypt — obeying the law — trusting God's provision and leading. What's the **external sign** of the covenant? The Passover. God had sent successive plagues and judgments upon Egypt because they refused to release the descendants of Abraham from bondage and slavery so that they might be free to worship Him. The last plague is found in **Exodus 11-12**

**Exodus 11:4-6** “Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, <sup>5</sup>and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. <sup>6</sup>There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

There was only **ONE WAY** to avoid that plague —

**Exodus 12:3-4; 5; 7; 13** <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household..... <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old..... <sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it... <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

There was tremendous faith involved for them. Put yourself in their place on the night before Passover. Why a lamb? Why not a bull? Why do we have to put the blood on the door? Why not the roof? And why can we only put the blood on the door in *that way*? Why not can't we put on the door the way we want to? IN FAITH — they did what God told them to do.

ALL OF THIS is pointing to Jesus! A lot of people ask: Well why do I have to put my trust in Jesus? Why can't I put my trust in this? Why can't I put my trust in that?

ALL OF THIS points to Jesus who would shed his blood in our place for our sins.

**1 Corinthians 5:7** For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus in Judean wilderness he pointed at Him and said — *Behold **the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world***

**All of that** is connected to the Mosaic Covenant — which is **connected to** and **builds upon** the Abrahamic Covenant!

**THIS IS HUGE** — **Without** God's **unique** and **selective** covenant with Abraham and his descendants — the cross of Jesus is without origin and the cross of Jesus is without meaning.

Passover leads all the way up to the **new covenant** with Jesus and Communion. At the Last Supper Jesus was celebrating Passover that's the sign, the external sign, that we belong to God and we are covenant people.

**5.) What is the Covenant Community?** It's a holy nation — and a kingdom of priests — all belonging to God to serve him and do ministry.

**6.) What is the promise of Jesus?** Well the Passover shows Jesus coming to die in our place, for our sins, to cover us by his blood from wrath, judgment, and death. Because of the shed blood of Jesus God will literally **pass over** us. It is Jesus who liberates us from bondage to our Pharaohs — Satan, sin and death. Jesus is the one who provides for us a new life and a new way of life as worshipers. All of these foreshadow the coming of Jesus

The **Adamic** covenant

The **Noahic** covenant

The **Abrahamic** covenant

The **Mosaic** Covenant

We're closing in on the finish line.

## THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

### 2 Samuel 7

**NOTE:** In this passage you don't hear the word covenant. We do find it used in relation to David in **Psalm 89:3**

- <sup>3</sup> You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
<sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.'"

**2 Samuel 7:8** Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep,

Again we see the recurring theme of GRACE regarding the mediators of these Covenants. David was a nobody! He was the runt of the litter. His Dad — a man named Jesse — never even thought to call David into the house when the prophet Samuel came to anoint a king from among Jesse's sons.

**DON'T MISS THIS** — God picks for covenant people those who are sinners and nobodies — **because** at the end of the day it's all of grace.

<sup>8</sup>...I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.

<sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall

build a house for my name — **that would the temple** — , and I will establish the throne of his kingdom — **note for how long** — forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son — **he is talking about Solomon here**. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup>but my **steadfast love there's our word chêsêd** will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure — **for how long** — forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” <sup>17</sup>In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

<sup>18</sup>Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? — **By now I hope we know the answer to that question — it's GRACE , he was in covenant with God by grace** — <sup>19</sup>And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God!

So here we have The Davidic Covenant!

**1.) Who is the mediator, who is the head, who comes as our representative between us and God?** David.

**2.) What's the blessing?** An everlasting throne — an everlasting kingdom — an everlasting king *to sit on that throne, and rule over that kingdom.*

**3.) What are the conditions?** If you sin — there are consequences. Concerning Solomon God says — **2 Samuel 7:14** *when he commits iniquity I will discipline him.... though I will remain steadfast in my love.* I will still love and bless him but there will be consequences.

BY THE WAY — That is true for those in covenant with God through faith in Christ. God's steadfast love never ceases but if you sin there are consequences, God will discipline you — *those He loves He disciplines (Hebrews 12:6).*

**4.) What is the sign of the Covenant?** The **internal sign** — Again it's faith. The **external sign** is THE TEMPLE. They obeyed God by building the temple he commanded through Solomon. There, God manifested His glory in tangible way in the Holy of holies. THE THRONE — There would be a king who would rule over his people.

**5.) What is the Covenant Community?** Historically Israel. But in and through Jesus it is ultimately a forever Kingdom that would include men and women from any and every nation who by faith are rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the forever kingdom of Jesus (Col 1:13).

**6.) What is the promise of Jesus?** God's presence in the temple is a foreshadowing of Jesus who would come Tabernacle among us. Jesus is the king of kings. There is the throne of David that would be established — and in His Second Coming Jesus will sit upon the throne of David. From Jerusalem He will rule the earth in righteousness for 1,000 years — and then He will usher in a New Heaven and a New Earth over which He will reign forever.

**Now we come to the LAST of these covenants lets turn to [Jeremiah 31](#)**

## **THE NEW COVENANT**

This new covenant brings us full circle to the front end of our study! God has been betrayed throughout human history. Yet He pursued Adam — He pursued Abraham — He pursued Noah — He pursued Moses — He pursued David. Each of those men represented people that God wanted to be related to in loving Covenant Community.

In [Jeremiah 31:31-33](#) God speaks of a NEW COVENANT.

<sup>31</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, —

Israel = the northern kingdom

Judah = the southern kingdom

<sup>32</sup>not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, —

That's the Mosaic Covenant

my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

The Old Covenant — the Mosaic Covenant — was written on stone tablets. In contrast God promised to write the New Covenant on men's hearts. THAT is the ultimate covenant! Rather than provide us some external standard, that can be lost, or neglected, or misinterpreted – God embeds or implants HIS desires within our nature. He **“writes it on our hearts.”**

**And I will — covenant promise**

be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

God says *I have been **CHÊSÊD** with you (loving — patient — steadfast) with people who continue to sin against me, betray me, and violate me. But I will be their God and I will love them and I will bless them — and I will do this in spite of them.*

**That's the new covenant.** This **NEW COVENANT** is the fulfillment of God previous covenant relationship with man.

**Here's our last section of scripture — Matthew 26.** By the way — We've just covered most of your Bible

**Matthew 26:26-29** Now as they were eating,

Jesus and his disciples are eating the Passover meal, the sign of the Mosaic Covenant. This is so RADICAL —

**Luke 22:15 KJV** And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

The very God who prescribed the sacrifice of the Passover sacrifice of the lamb has now become man — and I believe He's been waiting since that night in Exodus to sit down with these men and eat this meal with them before HE would fulfill the very thing pictured in the Passover lamb

Jesus took bread, and after blessing it

This is God incarnate (next week's subject) is doing the same thing we found Him doing in the opening pages of Genesis — He is **blessing**

after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

RADICAL — This breaks with thousands of years of Jewish tradition. Every year at Passover, the head of the family would have certain words to say taken directly out of Exodus. Here Jesus breaks from tradition, and says **this is my body**. **What he is saying is that the Mosaic covenant is now fulfilled in Him.**

<sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

God became a man to die in the place of sinners like you and me. He did this to save us, He did this to forgive and love us, He did this so we might be in covenant with Him.

What is so staggering is that when He came in human flesh to establish this NEW COVENANT with us — we are told by Isaiah 700m years before hand

that He was *DESPISED and REJECTED* — just as He had been despised and rejected from Genesis 3 forward!

<sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

That's the referring to the Davidic Covenant.

**1.) Who is the mediator of the new covenant?** HERE'S WHY we have patiently walked through so much of the Bible. The mediator of the New Covenant is JESUS! **He** is our representative — **He** goes in place of us all.

**2.) What is the blessing of the new covenant?** We can only BEGIN to number them: Salvation — forgiveness of sin — the indwelling power of God, the Holy Spirit — reconciled relationship to God — imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ — all spiritual blessings in heavenly places — eternal life that begins with a having transformed life on earth. We could go on and on for hours!

**3.) What are the conditions of the new covenant?** Repentance from sin and faith or trust in Jesus.

**4.) What is the sign of the covenant? The Internal Sign** — it's faith. To look to Jesus and say *I love You, I belong to You, I trust You, I commit my life to You*. With all that I am believe that Jesus died on the cross in my place for my sins and that my covenant relationship with God is only made possible through Jesus.

*Galatians 2:20 (CSB) ... The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**The external Sign** — Baptism and Communion.

Baptism — In baptism I signify that my life is identified with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The old life lived after the flesh is buried with Christ and I now walk in the newness of life.

Communion — It is the visible way by which I show that I am in covenant with God through Jesus Christ. His body was broken — His blood was shed for my sins so that I could be a member of God’s new covenant people. Communion is for men and women in covenant with God through faith in Jesus.

## **5.) What is the covenant community?**

First let me say that the NEW COVENANT radically transforms relationships.

First, it transforms the way we see marriage. Do you know that marriage is a covenant? Christians are to approach marriage as a covenantal union not a contractual convenience.

Secondly, this transforms our view of parenting. No matter what my kids do — I am their dad. If they should wander when they grow up I need pursue them. It doesn’t mean that I accept their sin. I need to deal with them as God deals with my sin. But it means that my children are always my children and my love to them is not conditional. I will be their dad and they will be my kids. Just like God says I will be your God and you will be my people.

LASTLY — It affects the way we should view our relationship to church.

This might be a revolutionary concept for some of you. Through faith in Jesus, every Christian around the world is in a Covenant relationship with God. The covenant community in the New Covenant is the Church.

In the New Testament we see that the local church is God’s plan for His Covenant people to live out the realities of the New Covenant and their life in Christ. It is a “life together.”

The reality of God’s Covenant Love should elevate the way we view the nature of the local church and the way we view ourselves in relationship to the local church. The local church does not exist to provide goods and

services — it is not the religious version of Best Buy or Fry's — a place competing for your business — promising more bang for your buck.

Christians are to be more than consumers and takers. **We are** a part of God's covenant community. We should see ourselves as disciples of Jesus, united with other believers because we now find our identity in Jesus. This unity is expressed within a local assembly of believers in the way we **covenant to collaborate** in loving God; loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians.

It is because of our covenant relationship with Jesus that we should commit to do **covenant good**. What do I mean by covenant good? We do covenant good when we do things that reflect the covenant love — the chesed of God — **within** a local assembly of believers; and **for** a local assembly of believers. This transcends just going to or belonging to a local church membership.

Because of our covenant relationship with Jesus I believe that here at Metro each man and woman should in their heart purpose to express their covenant relationship with Jesus by doing covenant good for the whole of this community of believers — not just what best serves them individually or what is convenient for them individually. We should do it prayerfully, and generously with our time, talents and treasure.

## **CLOSING**

God has pursued rebellious, stiff necked, hard-hearted, self righteous, unfaithful mankind — and we are numbered among that mess.

Like Adam — we've been treacherous in our betrayal of our loving Creator. Like Noah — we are undeserving sinners who have found grace. Like Abraham — we've been and still in ways still are idolaters. Like Moses — at least in our hearts many of us have committed murder (as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount – Matt 5:22). Like David — we are in some cases physical adulterers and all of us have been at times and degrees unfaithful to God.

**YET BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION** — God invites YOU and ME into covenant relationship!

Jesus is the One who has fulfilled all of the covenants and expands them into the new covenant so that God could be **your** God and **my** God and that **we** could be **His people!**

THE ONLY RIGHT RESPONSE to the covenant love of God is repentance from sin and faith in Jesus.

**Jesus is a better head than Adam** — in that He NEVER sinned — and he regained all that Adam lost.

**Jesus is a better Noah** — Because he brings judgment on sin, salvation by grace and one day soon a whole new heaven and earth.

**Jesus is a better Abraham** — Because He *is* the blessed seed of Abraham who is the blessing to the nations of the earth.

**Jesus is a better deliverer than Moses** — Because He has conquered our Pharaoh, Satan and sin. Jesus has liberated us to worship Him —and He fulfilled the law in our place. *The Law came by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus (John 1:17).*

**Jesus is a better king than David** — Because He is seated at the right hand of God the Father far above all principalities and powers and he is coming again to establish his eternal kingdom.

Do you know Jesus? Do you love Jesus? Do you belong to Jesus?  
Have you confessed your sins to Jesus? Are you in covenant with Jesus?

**God has PURSUED YOU so that YOU can enter into a Covenant relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ who died for your sins and rose from the grave for your salvation.**