

The Covenant of Creation PT. 1

Genesis 2:15-25

preached @ Hawkwood Baptist Church
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Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.” 18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement.”

19 So the Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found as his complement.

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the Lord God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken from man. 24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

Intro.

I said to you last week that you cannot understand life, or the purpose of life without understanding the Biblical covenants. That should become very evident today as we look into the covenant God made with Adam, or, as it can be termed more broadly, the Covenant of Creation.

Definition of Covenant

A covenant is a bond in blood, sovereignly administered.

In a Biblical covenant God formally binds himself legally and morally to a particular person or group, and since the fall of Adam He seals His commitment in blood. The sacrifice that accompanies a covenant is God’s pledge to the death that He will keep His promises.

- God initiates each covenant.
- All Biblical covenants are covenants of grace. God graciously reaches down to man because man cannot reach up to Him, *even before the fall*. After Adam sinned, God immediately promised that Satan would be defeated and that a woman would someday bear a Son to play a key role in that defeat. All the succeeding covenants point to the grace of the Saviour God, a grace that is finally and fully realized in the New Covenant sealed in Christ’s blood on the cross.
- Divine covenants are not negotiated. God sets the terms of the covenant on both sides. He makes certain promises and He makes certain demands. Commitment and obedience is the means by which God’s people demonstrate participation in God’s covenant.

Commitment and obedience do not earn participation in the covenant; rather they are the appropriate responses of people who are brought into a love relationship with the Living God.

- No covenant has ever taught salvation by works; there is only grace and love, with covenant members giving as they have received. That is, as they have received grace and love from God they return that grace in the form of love for God and faithful obedience to His commands.
- God expects His people to take their inclusion in His covenant as seriously as He does. Keeping His promises is a matter of life and death to Him, and He insists our participation be seen as life and death by us.
- Covenant membership on earth is identified by accompanying signs: the rainbow, the Temple, the cross on God's part. Circumcision, the Sabbath, baptism, the Lord's Supper on ours.