

Covenant Relationship with God

Covenant: *a binding agreement between two people or peoples.*

Our (New) covenant is made binding by an oath and formalized with blood and sealed with a token. Deuteronomy 26:17-19, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Hebrews 6:17, Hebrews 9:14-16, Ephesians 1:13

Covenant Relationship: *The way in which two people or peoples regard and behave toward each other because of their covenant.*

Covenant relationships are like rooms in a house. One room does not equal a house, but the house is the sum of all the rooms. So, every house has many rooms, and that concept is carried over to our covenant relationships.

When God declares, “He will be our God,” He intends to pour forth His goodness (grace) upon us in different “ways” (rooms), and these “ways” become a revealing of Himself that we “relate” to. Some key relationships that God has purposed for us to relate to Him in are: Savior/ the saved relationship, Teacher/student relationship, Lord/servant relationship, Father/son relationship, and a Husband/bride relationship, and many more. All these relationships (rooms) make up our covenant (house).

In the New Covenant, God’s Word Declares He will:

- **Be our Savior** - God promises to forgive us our sins. Luke 1:77, 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 8:12 (God forgives us initially and He continues to forgive our sins all the days of our life.)
This requires a position of repentance and honest humility.
- **Almighty God** - God promises to empower us. Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8 (I was shy and insecure as a young man, but now speak demonstratively before any people the Lord allows.)
This requires faith, trust, and a hunger for more.

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- **Be Our Teacher or Master** - God promises to teach us and lead us into all truth. John 14:26, John 16:13.
This requires a response of humility and hunger.
- **Be Our Creator** - God promises to be faithful over us; to watch over His Word (will) to perform it. Isaiah 55:11, Philippians 1:6, 1 Peter 5:10
This requires a response of faith and a position of brokenness of heart.
- **Be Our Father and Supplier** - God promises to provide for us, to be our source for every need. Matthew 6:25-26, Philippians 4:19.
This required a trust over fear response.
- **Be Lord of All** - God promises to exercise His will in All of our living as we learn to walk with Him. Job 1:12, Isaiah 43:2
- **Be Our Judge** - God promises to reward us. Romans 2:6-7, Revelation 2&3
- **Be our Husband** - Ephesians 5:27

How Do We Relate To God In Covenant Relationship?

We learn to “relate” to Him through the preaching of the Word and the working of the Holy Ghost. On our part, we are required to “believe” on Jesus, which has a world of meaning in it. Here are some facets of the word “believe” that show us how we are to respond to our God in covenant.

- We must believe John 6:29, John 3:16
 - Belief Means We Repent – Acts 17:30, Matthew 3:8 (Amplified)
 - Belief Means We Receive Him - John 1:12 (means to aggressively take hold of. To exert your will.)

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- Belief Means We **Fear God and Obey** His Word – Romans 6:17, 1 Peter 1:22
- Belief Means We **Separate from the World** - 2 Corinthians 6:17
- Belief Means We **Put on Christ** – Ephesians 4:13,22-24

We have looked at covenant relationship with God, but how does this impact our relationship between brethren?

Paul said that we should know no man after the flesh, so relationship between brethren must also be “spiritual”. If we have a common place of covenant with God, it should cause us to behave toward our brethren in ways that fulfill the scriptural doctrine “**do toward your brother as the Lord has done to you**”.

Matthew 10:8, Ephesians 4:32

- **Honor your brother** and seek his increase. Romans 12:10, Hebrews 10:24, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 John 3:15
- **Do not hold back from the needs of your brother**. Romans 12:13, 1 John 3:16-18, Galatians 6:10
- Be swift to **forgive your brother**. Matthew 18:21-22, 33
- **Show love, mercy, kindness, gentleness, and long suffering to your brother**. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- **Watch over your brother and encourage him**. Galatians 6:1-2, Hebrews 3:13, Proverbs 24:11

Cautions:

- Paul said that from this point on he would know no man after the flesh. He would only know them after the spirit, or in my words, after this relationship which is based on the covenant of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have personally seen that the more people spend time together or the longer people know one another, the more familiarity we have with one another, the more we tend to know someone after the flesh.

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By that, I mean the honor, the carefulness, the consideration we used to manifest (in our word or deed toward our brother), which was based on our mutual covenant with Jesus changes. Instead of honor, we tend to speak and deal as though the brother is earthly and common. We speak sharply, or inappropriately, or without consideration of the work of the Holy Ghost in them as though they belong to us or are beneath us.

Our brethren never belong to us, (regardless of the natural relationship, i.e. husband/wife, mother/daughter, father/son, etc.); we each belong to the Lord Jesus. It's like having access to someone else's car and then driving it recklessly. We know we should always treat what belongs to another with care and honor. In the same way, we should always be careful with one another, honoring "their Master" by honoring them.

Covenant relationships are greater than emotion, greater than natural bloodlines, greater than personal right, greater than any soulish position. Each member of the body of Christ has a covenant relationship with Him that MUST be served by us!! John 13:14, John 15:13, 1 John 3:16