

Chapter 1 – The Covenant we are Called to Keep

1. Why is the doctrine of the covenant important? How is it important to you in your life?
2. What is the covenant of God? What is it not? How does this bear on our view of our duty to keep the covenant?
3. Scripture on the covenant
 - a. What words are the “covenant formula?” How frequently do they appear in Scripture? What does this say about the covenant?
 - b. What relationships in our lives are biblical pictures of the covenant?
 - c. Where was the covenant life of Israel most fully expressed? What name is given to Jesus in Isaiah 7:14?
 - d. How does the “mother promise” of Genesis 3:15 teach the covenant?
 - e. What do James 2:23 and Psalm 25:14 teach about the covenant?
4. The ground of the covenant
 - a. How is the covenant grounded in God’s own Triune Being?
 - b. In what ways is the covenant established by and with Christ?
 - c. If the covenant is a covenant of grace, can it be a conditional covenant?
5. Keeping God’s Covenant
 - a. What does it mean for us to “keep God’s covenant?” Do you think of your daily Christian living this way?
 - b. Even though keeping the covenant is a responsibility for the Christian, it is not a condition of the covenant. How do you explain this, and at the same time maintain the importance of Christian responsibility and duty?
 - c. What does it mean that we have a “part” in the covenant? How does this show the importance of covenant keeping?
 - d. What does it mean to be a “covenant-breaker?” What does it not mean? In this connection, discuss the important warnings of Hebrews 6:4-8 and Hebrews 10:26-31.
6. The ways we are called to keep the covenant. Listed below are the ways to live as friends of God. Discuss the importance and place of each of these in your life: are you as aware of these in your daily life as you should be? Do you think of the Christian life in these ways? How can we improve in each of these?
 - a. Covenant keeping is Obedience
 - b. Covenant keeping is Love for God
 - c. Covenant keeping is Drawing near to God
 - d. Covenant keeping is Unconditional living to God
 - e. Covenant keeping is Godly family living
 - f. Covenant keeping is living with the eternal future in view