

COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS

I. Another word for testament is covenant . This morning I would like to teach you concerning the word “Covenant,” what does it mean and how does it apply to you.

A. The word “Covenant” is defined as = “to enter into a formal agreement, to bind one’s self by contract.

1. It means to stipulate to the terms.
- 2. Testament - Covenant - Contract all mean the same thing.**

B. What are the terms of this contract between God and us? Both parties have terms

1. God agrees to give us “life” which consists of:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| a. Eternal Life | - | <u>John 3:16</u> |
| b. Abundant Life | - | <u>John 10:10</u> |
| c. Changed Life | - | <u>Romans 8:29</u> |
| d. Meaningful Life | - | <u>Ephesians 2:10</u> |

2. We agree to: Matthew 22:34-40

C. Relationships don't get you into something they are designed to get something into you. I want to share with you 3 things that relationships will accomplish.

1. It will provide a setting so that we can develop deep personal relationships.

a. Jesus loved John, Peter, Matthew and the other disciples, but that didn't mean they loved each other.

b. It's vertical commitment that builds horizontal relationships. John 15:12

1) Father says, son treat your sister right.

2) It takes mother and father to teach them how to horizontally relate.

c. One reason Christians can't get along with each other is they don't have anybody mature that they mutually respect who can teach them how.

d. It's what the Bible calls “joints & ligaments” Ephesians 4:16 & Colossians 2:19.

2. It's a reproduction by association. Characteristics are transferred and imposed by relating together.

a. Matthew 26:69 & 74 - being with Jesus made Peter different.

b. Acts 4:13 - associating with Jesus made them different.

c. I Corinthians 4:16-17 - The way Timothy acted would remind you of Paul.

Ps 119:63 - "I am a companion of all those who fear Thee, and of those who keep Thy precepts. (NAS)

Prov 2:20 - So you will walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the righteous. (NAS)

Prov 13:20 - He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (NAS)

3. It will cleanse us - I John 1:7 - Truth will bring fellowship, fellowship will bring cleansing.

a. **Dishonesty takes us out of the light.**

b. Honesty brings us into the light - John 3:21 - *"But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."* (NIV)

c. **Leviticus 17:11 - "The Life is in the Blood." - The life of Jesus is in His blood and the blood flows through the Body.]**

1) If I cut my hand off it will die. Because it is cut off from the life that is in the blood.

2) If we cut ourselves off from the Body of Christ we will die.

d. The life and blood flows in honest fellowship. This is why the majority of us aren't clean - we are legally clean but not practically clean because we avoid one another and aren't honest with one Another.

e. **Fellowship in the Lord with one another will bathe us, it will cleanse us.**

f. You can't get clean by yourself - we get clean in relationships.

g. **You don't know where the dirt is until you meet up with someone who is clean in that spot.**

1) then they say I was cleansed in that area.

2) let me apply the blood that cleansed me to you.