

How Does Covenant Work?

1 Cor. 11:23-26

- Covenant is made to *guarantee relationship*.
- The covenant itself is a *set of words spoken to define the nature of the specific relationship and to set forth principles of commitment to the relationship.*
- ▶ It is an *oath that seals a relationship*.
- ▶ "I will be your spouse," is a *seal, before God*, of words *to be faithful* to that relationship.
- ▶ The *covenant is the words that pass between the people* that is *put into effect by a sacrifice proving the commitment*.



How Does Covenant Work?

1 Cor. 11:23-26

- *God's covenant refers to promises He has spoken.*
- ▶ It *relays the idea of established permanence* in the *relationship*.



How Does Covenant Work?

Parts of a Covenant:

- *Defining the personal relationship that the covenant is designed to confirm.*
- *The words or vows that seal the relationship.*
- *The specific signs of the covenant: the elements that form a lasting impression to remember the covenant.*
- *The blessings or positive rewards that come from keeping the covenant.*
- *The curses or negative things that come from breaking the covenant.*



How Does Covenant Work?

1 Cor. 11:23-26

▪The *breaking of bread and drinking of the cup* are the reminders, or signs, of our covenant with the Lord.

▶These *signs are only effectual because of the sacrifice* that put the covenant into effect.

▪*Signs are valid only if they reflect the reality of an inward HEART RELATIONSHIP.*

▶To hold to the *sign without an inward desire to fulfill* the covenant actually is an *inroad to curses and demonic activity.*

▶Taking *communion has power to heal and bring life* to the degree the *believer is identified with the Lord's death and resurrection.*



How Does Covenant Work?

1 Cor. 11:23-26

▪*There is no covenant without sacrifice, but sacrifice is worthless if there is no heart desire to keep the relationship!*

▶*The relationship the sacrifice points to is more important than the sacrifice!*

▪*A religious hypocrite stresses oaths and outward signs for their own sake.*

▶*God hears our words, but also looks at the heart* (Romans 10:9-10).

▶*Covenant is not ritualistic performance.*



How Does Covenant Work?

1 Cor. 11:23-26

▪What earns *merit with God* is not only spoken words, but *heart faithfulness.*

▶*Covenant relationship demands spoken vows, but such words are ineffectual without a heart expression reflecting the Lord's own sacrifice.*



How Does Covenant Work?

Jer. 31:33: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

▪The **New Covenant insures faithfulness by making a heart-change.**

▶**Unfaithfulness breaks trust and destroys relationships.**

▪If your **spouse is unfaithful**, it wouldn't matter how great a housekeeper, cook, etc, they were!

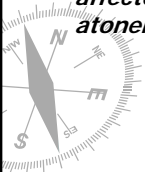


How Does Covenant Work?

Jer. 31:33

▪**No amount of perfect performance to rules could compensate for covenant betrayal or broken trust.**

▶**Reconciliation and healing can only be affected by an act of personal repentance, atonement, and restitution.**



How Does Covenant Work?

Steps to Covenant Relationship:

▪**There is a sacrificial act for the purpose of redemption or reconciliation** (to bring together).

▪**There is a gracious offer of relationship from the rescuer to rescuee** - (This relationship is the heart of the matter).

▪**Words and promises are set forth to delineate the nature of the relationship.**

▪**Signs or symbols of remembrance are given to imprint the covenant and its permanence on the parties.**



How Does Covenant Work?

Steps to Covenant Relationship:

- *Terms of expectation are set forth.*
- *Positive rewards (blessings) for keeping covenant are set forth.*
- *Punishments (curses) for breaking covenant are set forth.*