

Relational Covenant

Sermon Notes

August 20, 2017

***Illustration:** Broken treaties, trade deals, friendships, and marriages.

- Doesn't benefit me any more financially, exhilaratingly, or in overall fulfillment.
- Not worth fixing or updating.
- Requires more energy than I have to give.
- Found something better or that makes me feel better.

These philosophies are embraced socially as long as you are not the recipient.

- Leaves people feeling disillusioned with who they are or what the relationship had been.
- It leads to deep seeded pain and hurt that can cause anger issues or depression that leads to hopelessness—especially secondary victims like children.
- Coping with an uncommitted society leads to ambivalence and conformation.

Yahweh's ("I Am") pattern of covenant.

Covenant (def.)- a treaty, oath, or promise that biblically speaking was secured by the cutting of blood that provides passage for a covenant participant. Thus it was a sacred covenant that must be fulfilled.

Yahweh Covenant's with man.

- Adam
 - Full freedom with the garden as long as you do not... **Genesis 2:16-17**
 - Since you disobeyed...**Genesis 3:14-19**
 - Grace extended in hope of victory over death. **Genesis 3:15**
- Noah
 - Promise of him and his family being spared. **Genesis 6:18**
 - Promise to spare all living creatures from further annihilation by flood.
- Abraham
 - God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. **Genesis 15:18**
 - God promised his descendants would be many. **Genesis 17:2**
 - Circumcision is instituted as the symbol of entrance and submission to this covenant.
- Moses
 - God promises to make Israel his treasured nation if they honor and obey him. **Exodus 19:3-6**

- A conditional covenant is given where God promises to protect and give success to Israel in the Promised Land if they continue to be faithful to him. **Exodus 19-24**
- David
 - God promises that his royal lineage will be established forever. **2 Samuel 7:11-16**
- Jesus Christ
 - The blood of a new covenant that forever seals the relationship between God and man that fulfilled completely the covenants from Adam to David.

Yahweh's standard of covenant.

- He does what he says.
- His covenants were always in benefit of a healthy and full relationship between man and God.
- God did not waver even when mankind wavered, rejected, and rebelled against him.

Mankind's standard of covenant with God.

- We do not honor our word.
- We tend to enter covenants with an elevated intention of benefitting ourselves.
- We are quick to rescind when it get's difficult.

Jesus gets to the heart of relational covenant. **Matthew 5:27-37**

- It's a matter of the heart, not the superficial surface. **Mt. 5:27-30**
- The ramifications of broken covenant are ongoing. **Mt. 5:31-32**
- Make your words have weight that they do not need help to be convincing. **Mt. 5:33-37**

Moving forward.

1. Identify the covenants you have made and commit anew before God and make your "yes" be "yes".
2. Seek help from a brother or sister in Christ in renewing such a covenant—next week will offer biblical guidance in renewal.
3. If burdened under the weight of broken covenant and relationship- appeal to the God of mercy and grace for forgiveness and healing.