



Covenant Confusion

Luke 22:19-20 (Topical Message)

A Covenant is an agreement between two parties!

Some Covenants are conditional, and some Covenants are unconditional. For example, party A will do this if party B does that or (party A will not do this, if party B doesn't do that). The agreement is based on meeting a certain condition and is conditional.

There are also, unconditional Covenants. Party A will do this, no matter what party B does, or doesn't do. The agreement isn't based on party B doing anything.

There are 5 major covenants in the Bible:

- 1. Noahic Covenant*** – Genesis 9, God resets and renews His creation and promises the preservation of humanity after the flood (***Unconditional***)
- 2. Abrahamic Covenant*** – Genesis 12 & 15, God promises Abraham, He will make him a great nation, will bless him, will make his name great, will bless those who bless him, will curse those who curse him, all peoples of the earth will be blessed through him, he will be given the land of Canaan (***Unconditional***)
- 3. Mosaic Covenant*** – Exodus 19 & 24, God's covenant is with the nation Israel. God gives Israel the Law as a means to govern and direct them. This covenant is conditional and based on the obedience of Israel to keep the law. With obedience there were blessings, with disobedience there were curses (***Conditional***)

- 1. Davidic Covenant** – 2 Samuel 7, God promises in this covenant that one of David's descendant will rule forever. This covenant finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ who will one day rule during the future millennial kingdom (**Unconditional**)
- 2. New Covenant** – Jeremiah 31:31-34 & Luke 22:14-22, this covenant is made with mankind and provides by faith the forgiveness of sins based on the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also provides man a new heart and the capacity to intimately know God. This covenant is the basis for a relationship with God post Cross (Resurrection) and the rapture of the church. The New Covenant is here, this has been fulfilled and this covenant is **unconditional**.

All these Covenants are still part of God's plan moving forward in time and space to the ultimate return of Christ to rapture the church and reign for 1000 years in the millennial kingdom.

*So right from the start of this message, I want to look at the **type of relationship** a believer has with God, when one has believed the Gospel message in the times, we currently live!*

To understand this, we need to examine and compare the differences between the Mosaic Covenant (Old Covenant) and the New Covenant.

General Overview

Old Covenant:

1. Was first initiated by God and given to Moses & Israel (Exodus 19) – 1600 to 1300 BC
2. Involved keeping 613 Laws (Do's & Don'ts) which includes the 10 commandments, ordinances, sacrificial system, the priesthood, the building and maintaining the tabernacle
3. Was conditional and based on man's performance to meet a standard (Blessings / Curses)
4. Reveals man's sinfulness compared to a Holy God
5. Purpose is to show man that he can't keep the Law and needs another way to become Righteous
6. Is described in 2nd Cor 3 as a ministry of death and condemnation
7. Is also called the Mosaic Covenant, Mosaic Law, the Law, or the Old Covenant Law (synonymous)

In the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, God told Jeremiah that He is going to make a New Covenant with Israel to replace the Mosaic Covenant:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NASB)

³¹ "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke**, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, **"for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."**

You might say, Pastor Rob that's great, but I am a gentile and the Law was given to Israel and doesn't apply to me. Paul tells us in Romans 2:14-15 that the Law (Old Covenant) was written on the hearts of the Gentile:

Romans 2:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

What is the main benefit to man in the New Covenant – God will forgive sin and remember it no more!

New Covenant:

1. Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant, Heb 9:15
2. Makes the Old Covenant Obsolete for a Christian, Heb 8:13
3. Started when Christ resurrected from the dead (Post Cross)
4. Is entered into by faith (belief) in the Gospel Message (not works)
5. It's lived by faith (works coming from faith, not faith coming from works)
6. Is also called the New Covenant of Grace (synonymous)

So, in today's message I want to look at 3 major differences between the **Mosaic Covenant of Law** versus the **New Covenant of Grace** when understood will help believers experience an abundant victorious life! I want to clear up any confusion about both Covenants and how man relates to God in both Covenants. Thus, the title of my message "**Covenant Confusion**"

Today we will examine these differences:

- 1. Doing versus Receiving**
- 2. Separation versus Connection**
- 3. Sin Increasing versus Sin Decreasing**

Luke 22:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

A. *Old Covenant Law of Doing versus New Covenant Grace of Receiving*

Doing

The Law is a set of 613 rules and regulations. They are God's Holy standard and explain what is a sin and what is immoral, and what is not a sin and what is moral. The Law boils down to keeping a Holy standard to be accepted by God. This type of relationship with God is based on man's performance. **Under Law** – Man is in a performance-based relationship with God and is always doing to be accepted by God, and always wondering if he is accepted by God or rejected by God.

James 2:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

From James 2:10, we see that if a man breaks one part of the law, he has broken them all. That is because the law demands perfection in keeping it. No man can keep the Law perfectly. Only the God/Man Jesus Christ who was sinless did.

Romans 10:4 (NASB)

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The Law shows man's sinfulness compared to a Holy God and highlights man's need for the forgiveness of sins. Being a Good Person Law (Not in the Bible) is a type of humanistic law many approach God with. If I do more right things, good works, good deeds, compared to wrong things, bad works, or bad deeds – God will accept me and forgive my sins – **Wrong, this is not in the Bible:** So, attempting to keep the Mosaic Law, or attempting to keep a form of it by a "Good Person Law" – is all based on one's performance! Living like this creates a tremendous amount of anxiety, stress, depression and hopelessness because one can never measure up, and one never knows if one is forgiven and accepted by God.

Receiving

In comparison to the Law, God's Grace is received by faith in Christ, and experienced by faith in Christ:

John 1:12 (NASB)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

We also see in the book of Ephesians the believer has received every spiritual blessing from God and is accepted by God.

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

Living life as a Christian in the New Covenant of Grace isn't about doing to be accepted by God, but by faith being accepted by God, and by faith experiencing God!

Our Spiritual Journey

The Christians spiritual journey is receiving, discovering & resting in what he already is and what he possesses in Christ. This is all in God's timing and in His way in your life. There is no cookie cutter process or method.

These are times in your life when you say: (1) ***Ah Ha – I never knew that about who I am in Christ, or what I have become in Christ, or how to Experience Christ. These are revelation downloads from God.*** (2) ***Ah Ha – I now see that,*** (3) ***Ah Ha – that is a freeing truth,*** (4) ***Ah Ha – I read that verse before and never saw that.***

Summary

Under Law one is in a performance works -based relationship with God and will never know if one is accepted by Him, or that his sins are forgiven. Under Grace one is in faith-based relationship with God for Salvation, and Sanctification (Growth), is forever accepted by Him, with his sin's past, present and future being forgiven. This isn't based on what one does, but who one is.

John 1:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Warning

Believer - Don't fall into the Devils trap of approaching God from an Old Covenant perspective of performance, because you are now living in the New Covenant of Grace fully forgiven and fully accepted in the Beloved!

B. Old Covenant Separation versus New Covenant Connection

Separation

In the Old Covenant of Law and prior, man is separated from the life because of Adam's fall in the garden and eating from the tree of the knowledge of Good & Evil. As soon as he ate, Adam died spiritually, and would eventually die physically.

Romans 5:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Romans 5:12 (NASB)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

All Men born since Adam's sin are Spiritually dead and separated from the life of God. I often describe these types of people saying they are "In Adam". The Old Covenant Law or being a Good Person can't impart spiritual life.

Galatians 3:21 (NASB)

²¹ Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

Jesus told the Jewish leaders during His earthly ministry:

John 5:39-40 (NASB)

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

Brothers & Sisters – Without faith in the Gospel message, all men are spiritually dead and separated from the life of God.

Man was created by God for connection to Him as it was prior to the fall in the Garden of Eden. That connection has been broken by Adam's sin, and now all men born into this world are separated from the life of God.

Spiritual Life can only be obtained by faith in the Gospel message:

But, reconnection to God is possible by faith in the Gospel. Reconnection restores spiritual life to man but his physical body will still die.

Connection

I have been saved for 31 years, and for the first 15 years of my Christian life never heard or was taught that as a believer, I am connected (United to Christ) because of the basic fact I believe in Him. Connection means a closeness to me and Christ. I am in Christ, and He is in Me. There are many verses in the bible that describe this:

Romans 6:5 (NASB)

⁵ For if we have become **united with Him** in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

Romans 7:4 (NASB)

⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be **joined to another, to Him** who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

Galatians 2:20 (NASB)

²⁰ "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NASB)

²² For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ** all will be made alive.

Being connected to Christ is a powerful truth that has escaped many Christians today.

Bottom Line – Believers are united to Christ, Christ is in them, and they are in Christ!

Can you get any closer than that?

Christ in a believer is the believer's new source to which to live his life. Christ is in a believer, and wants to live through the believer.

Brothers & Sisters – You can't live the Christian life, only Christ can live it for you! Stop trying to live it, and allow Christ to live if for you. Stop trying and start trusting:

Warning

Believer - Don't fall into the Devils trap of thinking you are separated from God, and disconnected from God and when you sin need to be forgiven to be reconnected. There is no such teaching in the bible. Once forgiven, always forgiven. Once united to Christ, always united to Christ!

C. Old Covenant Law Increases Sin versus New Covenant Grace Decreases Sin

Sin Increases

The Law is God's Holy Standard and defines sin. Its purpose is to show man that he can't keep this holy standard, and need forgiveness of sins by faith in the Gospel message. So, the purpose of the Law is to increase sin in the life of man so they see their need for forgiveness by God.

Romans 7:5 (NASB)

⁵ For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

Romans 7:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." ⁸ But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin *is* dead.

Sinful passions are aroused by the law. Paul coveted because the Law told him not to covet. Apart from the Law, sin is dead. Trying to keep the law, actually increases sinning in the life of man. That is one of the purposes of the Law. To show man's **INCREASING** sinfulness and for the need of forgiveness.

Sin Decreases

Being under Grace decreases sin.

Romans 6:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Why? The Bondage of Sin is Broken because the old you was crucified and risen with Christ. Believers now have a choice not to sin. Under Law, believers have no choice but to sin, because they are in bondage to sin!

Brothers & Sisters – God is at work in the life of a believer, conforming us into his image and revealing lies we are believing about ourselves and about him which is causing us to sin.

Why do we sin?

Romans 14:23b (NASB)

^{23b} is not from faith is sin.

Because we are not trusting in, or believe in some promise of God, our new identity in Christ, or our union with Christ!

Warning

Believer - Don't fall into the Devils trap of thinking you need to keep the Law as a way to gain victory over sin. Doing this actually increases sin in your life. The power of sin is broken in your lie, jus live by faith in God's promises, and from who you are in Christ!

Doing (Law) versus Receiving (Grace)

Separation (Law) versus Connection (Grace)

Increasing Sin (Law) versus Decreasing Sin (Grace)

***Believer – You are not under the Mosaic Old Covenant Law, you are
under the New Covenant of Grace***

Luke 22:19-20



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