



Covenant PPT #1

Welcome to this next segment of the covenant community module. As together, we reflect further on what it means to enter into a covenant with God.

If someone asks you why you belong to or go to a church, how would you answer? A good way to begin is to start at the beginning.

The story begins with God early in the story. God establishes relationships with creature and creation and covenants become the primary way in which these relationships are formalized.

What is covenant? A covenant is a chosen relationship or partnership in which two parties sometimes unequal in power being binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal. Amazingly, the creator seeks not to dominate the creation nor to reign like a dictator over the subjects, but to be in partnership, reformed theology, not only begins with God.

It begins with a sovereign God. Sovereignty is a term of power. Our God has created us in God's image and has given us the ability to make choices that God has not relinquished control.

And ultimately is in charge. The sovereignty of God is not to be feared, but welcomed. According to theologian, Shirley Guthrie, we can count on the guidance and support of a superior power who is infinitely, wiser, more loving, and just, and more concerned about our own and other's welfare than we will ever be.

We belong to a sovereign God willing to be in covenant with the creation and the created the initial relationship with the creation did not end well, but God did not give up the sovereign God entered into further covenant relationships with Noah, with Abraham and Sarah, with Moses, with David and with Jeremiah, God continued to renew the covenant until God established the new covenant in Jesus Christ.

Still today, God continues to covenant with us and partner with us in the covenant community called the church. It all begins with God.

God makes a pledge or a promise. God confirms the promise with a seal or with God. These promises are personal pronouns of I NAU.

We in us are used. God uses my to describe the relationship from God's point of view. These people, this person is mine throughout history, God covenants with the people from the people of God who become known as Israel to the people of Jesus Christ who become known as the church.

The pattern in scripture is established early on. This will be a relational God, a God different from any known before this God accommodates to the people, but never becomes a lesser God.



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This sovereign God is relational. This powerful God wants to be known and God's covenants will be established in public God.

And we make our responses to the promises for all to hear and see and witness our covenant with God is not private.

When God chooses individuals to create covenants, the individuals must decide to accept and covenant communities of faith and practice are formed.

When we commit to be in covenant, we now bear responsibility to God and to the community. Belonging may have certain privileges, but it also carries with it certain responsibilities.

We agree to love God with everything we have and we commit to love our neighbor. As we love ourselves, it is all that easy and all that hard.

It all begins with God and God promises to be with us. No matter what life brings during times of crises, God is with us.

Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Not how we feel, not how far away we run from the church. Not even death can separate us from the love of God.

God has made this promise to us. God always keeps God's promises. When times are difficult, we should look for evidence of God's ongoing covenant.

As Mr. Rogers told children, look for the helpers evidence is there. Remember the God's covenant does not end God has been with us is with us and will carry us into the future and beyond even if we fail to hold up our end of the bargain, the covenant, it will not ultimately affect the fact that God keeps God's promises.

The covenant begins with God, and we have the opportunity to renew our end over and over again and move forward in our partnership.

This concludes this presentation about covenant. You are invited and encouraged to engage in the reflection exercises that follow this video.