

# UNPACKING THE CHURCH: CLEARING UP CONFUSION

## UNDERSTANDING THE NEW COVENANT

### What is a covenant?

1. A covenant is an agreement that binds people in a relationship that consists of mutual obligations, commitments, or duties.

Exodus 6:1-8; Leviticus 26:9-17; Hebrews 8:10-13

What mutual obligations or duties are implied by the statement, "I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people?" (Lev. 26:12)

Is it appropriate for NT believers to speak of "obligations" and "duties?"

2. Old covenant vs. New covenant:

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Exodus 24:8 vs. Matthew 26:28

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Made with the people of the Exodus Jeremiah 31:32	Made with the true house of Israel and Judah Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 6:15-16
Made with a political nation (a people).	Made with a spiritual nation, a people (1 Pet 2:9-10).
They broke this covenant.	The people of this covenant will not break it.
This covenant was external.	This covenant is internal, written on the heart.
Not everyone belonged to God.	Everyone will belong to God.
Not everyone "knew" God.	Everyone will "know" God.
Not all received forgiveness.	All are forgiven.
Ratified/sealed by the blood of bulls (Exod. 24:8)	Ratified/sealed by the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:13f)
Ceremony involved sprinkling (external).	Ceremony involves ingesting (internal).
Covenant was broken (deportation/dissolution).	Covenant will not be broken (perseverance/eter. life)

3. The New Covenant is ratified and ultimately fulfilled in Christ, but because we are united with Him it is also fulfilled in us and for us.

Romans 8:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17

4. The New Covenant is made with a people, not a person, and has corporate meaning and implications.

Romans 9:25-26; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Titus 2:14  
Hebrews 8:10-13:1 Peter 2:9-10

10 Commandments vs. N.T. Imperatives  
Exodus 20:1-17 (Note both God-ward and man-ward commands).  
NT commands us to love God and to love one another.