

The Purpose of the Covenant of Works

Genesis 2:16-17

“The doctrine of the covenant lies at the root of all true theology. It has been said that he who well understands the distinction between the covenant of works and the covenant of grace, is a master of divinity. I am persuaded that most of the mistakes which men make concerning the doctrines of Scripture have based upon fundamental errors with regard to the covenants of law and grace.”

-C.H. Spurgeon (1888)

A covenant is an agreement between two parties _____ the parties together

Genesis 2:16-17

The covenant of works is the _____ covenant between God and man wherein God required perfect obedience unto His law with the blessing of life for such obedience but the curse of death if man chose to disobey His law

-The 10 commandments (_____) were written on the heart of Adam (and all his posterity because man was made in the image of God)-Romans 2:15

-Adam was created without sin with the ability to _____ God and love others (keep the law)-remember Mt. 22:37-40

-The command to not eat of the tree was simply an external command that if obeyed would show a heart in submission to the _____ law of the Lord (moral law)

God made this covenant with Adam who acted as the _____ of the human race-in Adam all mankind (all his posterity) were bound to this covenant

Romans 5:18a

-This understanding that we are born in sin because of our connection to Adam is called the doctrine of “ _____ sin” (In Adam’s fall we sinned all)

-The unsaved person is _____ the covenant of works

Jesus Christ _____ the covenant of works and acts as the new head of a new mankind

Genesis 3:15

Romans 5:18

Christians are no longer under the curse for their breaking of the covenant of works (being children of the _____ Adam) but are now (through faith) under Christ (their new head-the _____ Adam) and His perfect obedience to the covenant of works

Loving Christians,

“Consider I pray you, that as the first Adam did, as a common person, enter into covenant with God for all mankind, and brake it, whereby they became sinful and guilty of everlasting death and damnation; even so Jesus Christ, the second Adam, did, as a common person, enter into covenant with God his Father, for all the elect, that is to say, all those that have or shall believe on His name, and for them kept it, whereby they became righteous, and heirs of everlasting life and salvation; and therefore it is our greatest wisdom, and ought to be our greatest care and endeavor, to come out and from the first Adam, unto the second Adam; that so we ‘may have life through His name.’”

-Edward Fisher (1645)

God’s law was boiled down to one command but in this one command the entire moral law (10 commandments) was to be found

Adapted from “The Marrow of Modern Divinity” (1645)

1. He chose to rebel and worship Satan
2. He bowed down the idol of personal gain and pleasure
3. He despised His Name when he heeded it not
4. He refused to stay in the rest of God
5. He dishonored his heavenly Father
6. He killed himself and all his posterity
7. He committed spiritual adultery by loving another
8. He stole that which God said was forbidden
9. He bore false witness about God by his actions
10. He coveted that which was not his