

Shared Purpose & Authority

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 13

Background

- Exchanging a portion of names is a common covenant practice
 - Person's name represents their identity, purpose & authority
- God's covenant with Abram
 - "Yahweh" (Heb, n, *yhwh*): "the Lord"
 - Gen 17:5, when God made covenant with Abram, he added that letter to change Abram to Abraham
 - Gen 17:15, God changed Abram's wife's name from Sarai to Sarah
 - After God made covenant with Abram, he took portion of his covenant partner's name

The New Covenant

- Mt 8:20, "Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'"
 - What title does Jesus use to describe himself in this verse?
 - What does this term emphasize about Jesus' identity?
 - He took on true human identity – Php 2:7; Heb 2:17
 - He exhibited true human authority – Mt 9:8
 - He learned obedience by what he suffered – Heb 5:8
 - He was tempted in every way – Heb 4:15
 - He took responsibility for all of mankind's sin – 2 Co 5:21; 1 Jn 2:2
- Jesus came to earth to initiate the new covenant between God and man
 - He could only do that as a human, because a human had to be involved in cutting the covenant, but only a sinless human

Terms that apply to us because of the covenant

- Christian
 - Are you a "little Christ"?
 - Do you have his nature?
 - Do you think the way he does?
 - Are you using the skills & abilities God gave you to serve him & the people around you?
 - Ex 20:7 (NIV), "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."
 - Ex 20:7 (KJV), "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain."
 - "use" or "take" (Heb, v, *nasa*): (1) to lift up, take, carry; (2) to use something

- “name” (Heb, n, *sem* or *shem*): name, renown (fame, reputation)
- “mis(use)” or “vain” (Heb, n, *saw*): (1) vanity (futility, worthlessness, no result or use); (2) nothingness, empty; (3) falseness, deceit
- What do I mean if I say, “I worked on this really hard, but my effort was in vain”?
- If we call ourselves Christians yet refuse to fulfill our covenant responsibilities – repentance, faith & obedience – have we not taken God’s name in vain?
- God’s children & heirs
 - Gal 3:26, “ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
 - Ro 8:17(a), “Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ....”
 - “heir” (Gk, n, *kleronomos*): literally: one who is entitled by law or by the terms of a will/covenant to receive a portion, especially of an inheritance
 - root: *kleros* is “lot” (drawing lots), then “portion,” and finally “inheritance”
 - Heb 1:2, God appointed Jesus “heir of all things”
 - Heb 11:7, Noah “became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith”
 - What does it mean to be God’s heir?
 - Jas 2:5, we’ll “inherit the kingdom [God] promised those who love him”
 - Adoption as sons
 - Rom 8:15, “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”
 - “sonship” (Gk, n, *huiiothesia*): adoption
 - We’re entitled to the privileges & kingdom belonging to the only Son of God, Jesus!
 - Rom 8:23, “adoption as sons” (Gk, n, *huiiothesia*)
 - Gal 4:5, “full rights of sons” (Gk, n, *huiiothesia*)
 - Eph 1:5, “adopted as his sons” (Gk, n, *huiiothesia*)
 - Eph 2:6-7, ⁶ “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”
- Body of Christ
 - 1 Co 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

- Disciples
 - Mt 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
- Slaves of God
 - 1 Pet 2:16 “Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a coverup for evil; live as [*doulos*] of God.”
 - 1 Co 6:19(c)-20(a), “You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”
- Saints
 - Ro 1:7, “To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints”
 - “saint”: “holy one”

Shared Purpose & Authority

- God’s kingdom is the expression of his purpose
- Why does God want us to have his name? Why is this covenant element important?
- In this life, we’re to rule over our domains – care for it, provide for it, protect it & defend it – as a redeemed sovereign should do
- Jesus restored our authority by defeating Satan
 - Mt 28:18, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
- We also have authority to participate in God’s kingdom
 - We’re his children & members of his kingdom, so what we do must be compatible with what he would do; i.e., our purpose must align with his
 - Otherwise, what we do will be incompatible with what he’s doing & counterproductive
- Having entered covenant with God, we now share his purpose & some of his authority, as represented by taking his name
- Doing something “in God’s name” or “in Jesus’ name” means using his authority and power, as if he were doing it himself

Questions

- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations does this impose on us?
- How must this affect our thinking?
- How does this enable us to be more effective in the kingdom?

Conclusion

- Having our names changed in covenant is evidence we’re authorized to act in God’s behalf, that we share his purpose & authority