

Our Covenant Relationships Curses

God's Covenant with Adam & Eve

- Gen 2:17 “. . . but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”
 - What is the covenant requirement stated in this verse?
 - What is the consequence for violating that requirement?
- Gen 3:1, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.”
- Gen 3:14-15, “So the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’”
- Gen 3:16, “To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’”
- Gen 3:17-19 (speaking to Adam), “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”
- Gen 3:23-24, “So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”

God's Covenant with Noah

- (not a clear statement of curse for violating covenant)

God's Covenant with Abraham

- Gen 12:3, “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.”
- Gen 17:13-14, “My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

God's First Covenant with Israel

- Lev 26:14-16 “But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, then I will do this to you: . . .”
- Lev 26:44, “Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God.”

God's Second Covenant with Israel

- Deut 28:15, “However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.”

David and Jonathan's Covenant

- 1 Sam 20:12-13, “Then Jonathan said to David: ‘By the Lord, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely.’”

God's Covenant with David

- 2 Sam 7:14-15 (God speaking to David about his future son, Solomon), “I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.”
- Ps 89:30-34 (referring to David's sons)
 - If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.

God's New Covenant with Christians

- A great delusion among many Christians
 - Rom 8:1, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free

from the law of sin and death.”

- Does phrase, “no condemnation,” mean there is no covenant curse or does this refer to condemnation from the law of sin and death?
- Gal 3:13, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’”
 - Does this mean Jesus took covenant curses upon himself and eliminated all curses for us?
- Jn 10:27-28 (Jesus speaking), “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”
- Believers can turn away from God and jeopardize their salvation
 - Heb 10:26-31

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “the Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

 - Who does “we” refer to in verse 26?
 - What does verse 26 state about believers who deliberately keep on sinning?
 - What does that mean?
 - What does it mean to trample the Son of God under foot?
 - How can someone treat the blood of the covenant as an unholy thing?
 - How can someone insult the Spirit of grace?
 - v 30 notice: “The Lord will judge his people.”
 - v 31 it’s a “dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
 - 2 Pet 2:20-21, “If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the

beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred commandment that was passed on to them.”

- Who has escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord?
- What does it mean for a believer to become entangled and overcome by the world's corruption?
- What do we call someone who has never know the way of righteousness?
- What does it mean for someone to “turn their backs on the sacred commandment”?
- How important is it to be alert to your own spiritual condition and that of other Christians?
- Winning souls is honorable and mandatory, but we *abuse people* if we win them to Lord, bringing them into covenant with him, but *fail to disciple* them.
- Covenant curse is real
 - Why did God include a curse in this covenant?
 - *This* is the covenant God uses to restore man to right relationship with him
 - Through *this covenant* God seals each believer with Holy Spirit and releases his power to transform the believer to be like him and ultimately reign with him in his kingdom
 - *This covenant* reflects God's unlimited love for us and his intent to include us in everything he does
- Rom 11:22, “Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.”

God's New Covenant with Israel

- (not a clear statement of curse for violating covenant)

Marriage Covenant

- (not a clear scriptural statement of curse for violating marriage covenant)

Blessing

- May you have such a healthy fear of the Lord that you would do whatever was necessary to avoid violating your covenant with him.