

Covenant Relationship with God

A **covenant is based on faith and trust**, is permanent, cannot be broken by circumstances, is based on unconditional love and commitment, and lives to please the other.

A covenant relationship with God is a promise that builds a lasting relationship between the Creator and His creation. Within the gospel, a covenant agreement or mutual promise between God and a person or a group of people. Each believer must first strive to maintain and grow in his or her vertical relationship with God, and then second, his or her horizontal relationship with each other.

Commitment to the Covenant seeks to strengthen marriage as a fundamental unit of society, as well as strengthen our individual relationships between husband and wife as a fundamental unit of eternity. In a covenant marriage the couple makes a solemn promise to stay together no matter what. There are pre-nups "just in case" they decide to divorce. The three types of commitment in marriage are:

1. Commitment to something bigger than your personal self (the spiritual commitment) With love and understanding, couples can continue to grow together.
2. Commitment to yourself (the personal commitment) Couples can build emotional intimacy and a strong connection before sex plays a role in their relationship.
3. Commitment to your partner (the relationship commitment) couples can build trust and intimacy by knowing that each person is committed to working through challenges and growing together.

When all three are in balance, then there is real commitment. Other C's that can contribute to a healthy relationship include care, compatibility, and compassion.

The three Cc's of marriage are communication, compromise, and commitment. These are considered the foundation of a strong and healthy marriage.

Communication- expressing opinions, understanding differences and agreeing on compromise can help couples find common ground.

The highest form of commitment is to God.

Compromise- finding middle ground and agreeing to compromise can help couples build trust and intimacy.

Commitment: Working together through challenges and growing together can help couples release doubts and fears.

A complete relationship needs a covenant relationship, which rests on a shared commitment to core values, to ideas, to issues, and to goals.

A covenant is a special relationship where parties formally commit themselves to each other. While a covenant is a

legal agreement, a commitment is the act of keeping the covenant. A covenant is a relationship between two partners who make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal.

A proper "covenant relations" with God requires five major experiences:

1. Faith, faith in Jehovah God and Jesus Christ.
2. Repentance of sins.
3. Confession of sins.
4. Baptism
5. Obedience
6. Effective operation of all of these means genuine conversion.

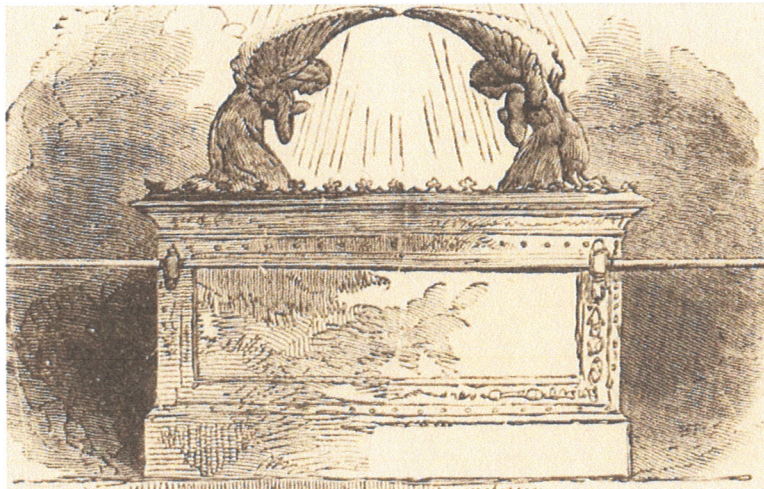
In the New Covenant, our basic relationship with God is sons not fearful slaves! Galatians 4:3 "So also when we were children, we were in Slavery, under the basic principles of the world." But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son to redeem those under law, that we might Receive the full rights of sons."

Making covenants with the Lord is like strapping ourselves securely to Him. He can then carry us with His infinite power. Making covenants with the Lord is like binding ourselves to Him in oneness, as if we are strapping ourselves securely to Him.

When we are baptized into the Church, we enter into the covenant the Lord made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Galatians 3:26-29). If we are obedient, we inherit the blessings of that covenant. We have the right to receive help and guidance from the Holy Ghost.

Along with the blessings we receive as the Lord's covenant people, we have great responsibilities. The Lord promised Abraham that through his descendants the gospel would be taken to all the earth. We are fulfilling this responsibility through the full-time missionary program of the Church and the missionary work done by the members. This opportunity to preach the gospel to all the world belongs only to the Lord's Church and His covenant people.

There are five explicit covenants that form the backbone of the Bible: those God makes with Noah, Abraham, Israel, and David and the New Covenant.



Signs of the Covenant

The Rainbow: a sign of God's covenant with Noah that he would never again flood the earth.

Circumcision: a sign of God's covenant with Abraham that the Messiah would come through physical Israel.

The Sabbath: A sign of God's promise of future rest in the Messiah.

Baptism: A sign of salvation in Christ.

The Passover Meal: A sign of God's covenant with Israel.

The Lord's Supper: A sign of the New Covenant.

The purpose of the Covenant signs – God gives covenant signs to help people remember his promises and to grow their faith. Covenant signs are not magical or superstitious, but they can help people draw nourishment from God's promises.

A Covenant is a relationship between two parties who make binding promises to each other. Covenants are relational and personal, and are often accompanied by oaths, signs, and ceremonies.