

The Covenantal Life
Week 10 - The Family as the Cornerstone Covenant

- The family and marriage covenants can serve as a template for the other covenants that govern our lives
 - Effect of covenant is to make people like family in some way
 - Marriage presupposes family and makes two unrelated people a genuine family
 - God's covenant relationship with His people make them sons of God, the bride of Christ
 - Reflects the eternally relational Trinity - all covenants ultimately point back to this reality
 - Among human covenants, marriage and family are the defining models, give us our understanding, engrain covenantal realities into our experience
- Church membership covenant
 - Universal Church [New Covenant] membership is marked outwardly by covenant signs of baptism and the Lord's Supper
 - Signify entry into and renewal of the New Covenant
 - These do not make one a part of the New Covenant, but do have a "legal" significance on the level of the local church
 - Signs are administered in the context of a particular local church under specific elders
 - Puts a person in real covenant with *that* local covenant body, even if he is not truly converted - obligations still bind, curses follow unfaithfulness
 - Elders exercised real authority in local congregations, were respected as equals by the apostles, were directly established by God, and members were called to submit to their authority (1 Tim. 4:14, 1 Pet. 5:1-4, Acts 20:28, 1 Thess. 5:12-13)
- Citizenship covenant
 - In the OT, familial union is involved in the inauguration oath (2 Sam. 5:1), federal headship is obvious
 - Citizenship involved vowing covenantally to the law-order of the nation and the God on whose authority it was instituted (Jos. 2:11-14, Ruth 1:16-27)
 - Equal justice under the law did not equate to full rights/privileges of citizenship (Num. 15:29-31, Deut. 23:3, 7-8)
 - NT affirms that even pagan civil governments are instituted by God - Rom. 13:1-4
 - Mutual obligations exist (1 Pet. 2:13-14)
 - Rights and privileges accompany citizenship (Acts 22:25-29)
- Taking seriously the family covenant helps to equip us for faithfulness in all human covenants
 - Obedience, honor, discipline, loyalty are all taught in the family, and this extends outward

