

The Sign of the Covenant

Genesis 17:1-27

Main Point:

Being a believer, you are in a covenant relationship with God because of His sovereign grace; therefore, obey the sacramental responsibilities of the covenant, as Jesus did for you.

1. As a believer, you are in a covenant relationship with God.
2. You are in this covenant relationship only because of God's sovereign grace to you.
3. Being in this gracious relationship with God, you are to be marked with the sign of the covenant.
4. This is true for your children as well.
5. Obey the sacramental responsibilities of the covenant, as Jesus did for you.

Quotations and Cross-References

Galatians 3:29 ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (NKJV)

Donald Macleod "God is saying ... 'I will be for you. I will exist for you. I will exercise my God-ness for you. I will be committed to you.'"

Matthew Henry "What God is himself, that he will be to his people: his wisdom theirs, to guide and counsel them; his power theirs, to protect and support them; his goodness theirs, to supply and comfort them."

Romans 4:19-21 ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (NKJV)

Matthew Henry "This he speaks, not as desiring that Ishmael might be preferred before the son he should have by Sarah; but, dreading lest he should be abandoned and forsaken of God, he puts up this petition on his behalf."

J.G. Vos "Establishing the covenant is an act of God, not an act of man, nor an act of God and man jointly ... God [is] the maker and establisher of this covenant; man [is] only the recipient of it."

Colossians 2:11-12 ¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (NKJV)

Romans 4:11 ¹¹ And he [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised ... (NKJV)

Romans 6:3-4 ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 7:14 ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. (NKJV)

J.G. Vos says, "God claims the children of believers as His ... [They] have a covenant standing from their birth and are not to be regarded as if they ... [are] exactly the same as the children of the world."