

Sacred Covenants

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Introduction

Sacred covenants must be respected; holy vows must be kept (Num. 30:1-2; Eccl. 5:4-7). Even in ordinary conversations and commitments, our word should be our bond (James 5:12; 2 Cor. 1:15-24).

The Covenant of Marriage

God has instituted the covenant of marriage (Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19:3-9). Sadly, many violate their marital vows (Prov. 2:16-19; Mal. 2:13-16).

The Covenant of Friendship

The Bible extols the covenant of friendship (Prov. 27:10; cf. 17:17; 18:24), and provides compelling examples: Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1:16-17; 4:13-15), David and Jonathan (1 Sam. 20:16-17, 30-34), and also Jesus (John 15:12-17). Unfortunately, many betray their close companions (Ps. 41:9; 55:12-21; 83:1-8; Matt. 26:20-25, 47-50; John 13:18).

The Covenant of the Eyes

The faithful make a covenant with their eyes, not to look upon evil things (Job 31:1-12; Ps. 119:37-38; Prov. 4:25-27; Isa. 33:13-16; 1 John 2:15-17). Regrettably, many prove faithless in this regard (Prov. 27:20; Matt. 6:22-23), coveting women (Prov. 6:24-35; Matt. 5:27-30; 2 Pet. 2:14), wine (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35), etc.

The Covenant of the Lord

God has instituted various covenants with his people: Noah (Gen. 6:8-9, 18, 22), Abraham (Gen. 17:4-5, 9), Israel (Exod. 19:1-6; 34:27-28), and Christians (Heb. 8:6-13; 12:22-24). Alas, many reject these sacred covenants (2 Kings 17:15-18; Ps. 78:10, 37; Heb. 10:26-31).

Conclusion

God keeps his covenants with man (1 Kings 8:22-24; Ps. 25:10-11); will man keep his covenant with God (Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 103:15-18)? Will you keep the covenant of life (Mal. 2:5; Heb. 8:6), or foolishly attempt a covenant with death (Isaiah 28:14-22)?