

## A Covenant Making God

In the Bible the adjective used most often to describe the word "covenant" is "God's" (and personal possessive pronouns like "His" or "Mine".) This reminds us that sinful man and his needs are not the center of the covenant, but rather God and His intents are at the core. Our eternal God approaches us with eternal desire and intent (Eph 1:4-12). What God intends, He acts upon. Covenant making is God's doing, His activity. We call that grace... and it is amazing! All the benefits of His covenant must be freely received. We call that faith. We experience God's covenant by grace through faith.

The ground of His covenant is always His loving nature (Jer 31:3; Jo 3:16). God's holy passion for oneness, His self-giving nature sets the course for all He does. He "makes covenant" with humanity so that we may see that He is always for us. His unilateral offering of "life" does call for a response - reminding us that this is a love affair. This is no mere legal or mechanical arrangement - it is a trusting receptivity of His free gift.

This loving God Who initiates covenants also accomplishes and finishes them for us (Ps 138:8; Phil 1:6). What began in His heart, He finishes in us. In other words, our covenant with God is about Divine initiative and Divine continuance. God is both Promiser and Performer (Ro 4:21; I Co 1:30; Ga 3:5; Phil 2:13; Heb 13:21). Biblical covenants, then, are more about God's commitment to us than our commitment to Him. Without the willing and the working of God, man is hopeless.

The aim or goal of covenant making is two parties coming together to function as one (Amos 3:3; Jo 14:20; 17:22-23). It is rooted in sharing life together ("fellowship") and grows as we come to know this God Who loves us so deeply. Revelation, in the new covenant, is about self-disclosure - God making Himself, His character known to us. For in this walk of faith it is Who and where we believe God to be that changes everything about the way we live. Our moment-by-moment response in this living and loving arrangement with our Creator is to be something like this, "That I might know You, and be an expression of Your Life."

It is the way we live by faith out of that disclosure that changes us!



- **Tax-deductible contributions** - may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.* by mailing your gifts to the address above.
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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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# GREETINGS

The Christian life is a life of tension. All of us know that to seek to grow up in Christ and live by His life is to swim against the tide in a fallen world. However, that is not the tension that I speak of.

I speak of the theological tension that comes with refusing to categorize our belief in one polarizing extreme or the other. For example, is God transcendent or immanent? Is eternal life now or future? Should our lives be contemplative or active? Are we to live intentionally or spontaneously? Completely saved or in process? Chosen or choice? Faith or works?

I can't speak for you, but I am learning to live in a comfortable tension. A balance that is not dependent upon an either/or response, but one that is derived from getting lost in the Holy logic of our God. I find no need to use human logic to eliminate the tension. I embrace the tension as the place God intends to keep me from reducing Him to my explanations. It is comfortable, indeed, to be lost in the mystery of our eternal God.



# CALENDAR



## **OCTOBER**

2,9,16,23,30 CCF

3,10 University of Florida FCA

11 Alachua Study

25 Ocala Study

## **NOV 4-6**

San Antonio, TX (210-490-2827)

## ♥ PRAISE & PRAYER ✝

♥ Our covenant making God

♥ Our security in His love

✝ To accept and live in the mystery of God

✝ For our local churches to be at home in the  
New Covenant

### Calendar Notice:



Our annual Florida Retreat is February 17-19, 2012.  
Details will be coming in the next month's newsletter.



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