

DOCTRINE

WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD BELIEVE

Covenant: God Pursues

Throughout the history of mankind we see God pursuing man in order to redeem him from the consequences of his sin. We see this clearly played out in the covenants that God enters into with Adam to David that are ultimately fulfilled in the New Covenant in Jesus and the church. As we study the Covenants of God, consider the motivation of God to pursue his creation.

Hesed is God's loving kindness —the consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly-pursuing, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, one-way love of God. It is often translated as covenant love, loving kindness, mercy, steadfast love, loyal love, devotion, commitment, or reliability.

Relevant Scriptures:

Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:26-2:3)
Noah and his family (Genesis 9:8-17)
Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-14; 22:16-18)
Moses and the Israelites (Exodus 19:5-6; 3:4-10; 6:7)
David and the Kingdom of Israel (2 Samuel 7:8-19)
Jesus and the Church (Matthew 26:28; 16:17-19)

Theology: What does scripture say about covenant?

What is a covenant and how is it different from a contract?
What is the overarching purpose of the six Covenants listed above?
Explain how Jesus is the fulfillment of the first five Covenants.
How would you use the covenants of God to explain the gospel?

Implications: How does our understanding of covenant affect our daily lives?

How does covenant affect your relationship with your spouse? Children? Church family?
Where in your life are you reflecting the "Hesed" of God?
What communities are you in covenant with?
How would your community look different if they were in true covenant with one another?
How does the concept of covenant shape or change your view of God?
Where have you seen the "Hesed" of Jesus in your life?

Prayer: Reflect and meditate on covenants of God and what they reveals about the glory of God.

Thank God for His pursuing love.
Pray for a strong covenant community within the church.
Pray that you would reflect the "hesed" of God in your relationships
Pray for those who are dead in sin that they would succumb to the pursuing love of Jesus