

COVENANT

The English word covenant has its origin in the Latin word, *convenire*, which means to come together in agreement. It carries with it a sense of belonging – it is not just a technical commitment of resources; it is an adaptive commitment of self.

To agree to enter into covenant is to agree to allow God to change us and our communities through the power of the Holy Spirit and through our honest and intentional interactions with our covenant partners.

Biblically, of course, a covenant represents a bond that makes the members of the covenant inextricably linked to God and each other.

Covenantal leaders, members of the covenant communities, and their regions were forever changed by God's work through the covenant.

Biblical covenants and their symbols: (Sometimes symbols can trigger deeper memory of the scripture without having to read the entire story.)

1. Noah and the flood – rainbow
2. Abraham – stars (descendants)
 - a. Abrahamic – God provides the ram so he doesn't have to sacrifice his son
3. Mosaic/Moses – ten commandments
4. Davidic – crown, royalty forever
5. Christ – empty cross

Elements of Covenant

- Time
 - Length of commitment (1 year, 6 months, etc.)
 - Frequency of gatherings
 - Length of each gathering
 - punctuality
- Confidentiality
- Sharing “air time” – equally talking time
- Learning and leading together for ministry
- Accountability
 - For attendance
 - Personal goal
 - Ministry goal
 - Network ministry goal together?
- Attendance commitment
- Purpose of our time together
- Meeting location
- Prayer for each other