

Our New Covenant - Part 2

Key Verse:

Romans 5:5 - and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (ESV)

Exploring the Bible

I. Worship

A. Heart of Stone vs. Heart of flesh

Hebrews 10:16 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, (ESV)

Question: What is God going to put in us?

Answer:

Hearts of stone can't be very response to God. There is no life in a stone. That was status of all the people under the old covenant, and it is the status of everyone today who is not saved. A heart of flesh represents the kind of heart that has life, the life of God.

B. Temple in a building vs. Temple in our body

Read *2 Chronicles 5:11-14*

Question: What happened when the glory of the Lord filled the temple?

Answer:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Question: What is our body?

Answer:

That must have been quite an experience seeing the cloud come down and fill the temple. But this was not just another cloud of mist. This cloud carried substance, the very presence of God. The priests were literally down on the ground under the presence of God. But we have a greater privilege and experience in that this very presence of God that manifested in the cloud comes to live in our body.

C. **Giving commanded in the Law vs. Giving from the heart**

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 - At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do. (ESV)

Question: What are the people commanded to bring every three years?

Answer:

Read *2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

Question: What kind of giver does God love?

Answer:

Question: What is God's promise to those who give freely?

Answer:

God loves us and wants us to give to others as freely as He has given to us. Giving by commandment or obligation does not give joy to either the giver or receiver. But if God promised blessings to those who obeyed the Old Testament

law and gave accordingly, how much greater is the blessing to us if we give as God designed us to give, from the heart.

II. Relationship

A. Slaves vs. Sons

Galatians 4:4-7 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)

Question: Before Jesus died on the cross, what was our status?

Answer:

Question: After Jesus died on the cross, what is our status if we receive Christ?

Answer:

It is an amazing move to go from the status of a slave to that of a son. Yet that is what we get under the new covenant when we receive Jesus as our Savior. The people under the old covenant were slaves to sin, slaves to the rules and regulations of the law, and slaves to guilt and fear. They could never know what it is like to call the God of the universe our Papa.

B. Fear of the Lord vs. Love of the Father

Read *Deuteronomy 31:10-13*

Question: What was supposed to be the outcome of the reading of the law to the people?

Answer:

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (ESV)

Question: If we have the Father's love in us, what won't we love?

Answer:

Over and over in the Old Testament God commanded His people to learn to fear Him. They were to learn to live in awe and great respect for who God was. But God knew that fear would only go so far in motivating people to obey, and without the Holy Spirit living in us, fear is all there would be as the restraining factor to God's people under the old covenant. Once the Holy Spirit began residing in the hearts of God's people, He produced the Father's love that causes us to run to the Father and away from the world.

C. **Love Commanded vs. Love produced**

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 - Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (ESV)

Question: What does God command the people to do?

Answer:

Romans 5:5 - and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (ESV)

Question: What has been poured into our hearts?

Answer:

The very nature of love is that it cannot be commanded. Once you command love, what is returned is not really love. Add to this the fact our sinful nature's response to a command is to rebel and you can see that this command was going to be impossible to obey. But, God knew that when He gave the law. His purpose was not illicit love from the people with command but to show the necessity of love in order to fulfill the law and to show the absolute impossibility of obeying that law apart of the work of God. King David and others living under the law discovered that secret even before Christ came.

D. Holy Spirit dwells with man vs. Holy Spirit lives in man

John 14:16-17 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

Question: Who was dwelling with the disciples?

Answer:

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Question: Who dwells in you if you belong to Christ?

Answer:

God literally lives inside of you if you are a believer. That is an incredible truth which all too often we take for granted. Imagine, the God and creator of this world and this universe is not just the God that you and I worship but the God who lives inside of us. The Holy Spirit isn't there just because Jesus told Him He had to go and live inside of us. He is in each of us so that He can do all that Jesus and the Father want to do in us and for us.