

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-12
Singing: 79:1-3 – 276:1-4 – 304:2, 3, 6, 7 – 408:1-3

CoF Art 34 (2)

God's Covenanting Nature Explored

Intro: The greatest joy for a preacher: Luke 1:19; 2:14

A. How did God humble Himself to deepest?

1. sending His Son (Rom. 8:3)
2. sentencing His Son (Gal. 3:13)
3. covenanting His Son (Is. 42:6)

B. To covenant Himself us 'human' is most humbling stoop

1. consider *unequal* partners in Paradise (Gen. 1:1 vs. 2:7)
2. consider the even more *unequal* partners after man's rebellion

C. God *gradually* revealed what existed before Genesis 1:1 & 2:15-17

1. He divinely delighted in making a Trinitarian covenant
 - a. all of Scripture is God telling us the story about Himself
 - in Creation (Ps. 19:1-4)
 - in Caring (Gen. 1-2)
 - in Covenanting (Gen. 2:15-17)
 - b. yet this story about Himself began before time
 - Prov. 8:22-23 - Eph. 1:4 – Rev. 13:8
 - Gal. 4:4-5 – 2 Tim. 1:9-10 – John 14:31

2. The difference between the *eternal* and *temporal* phase of covenanting

3. All glory of His covenanting is centered in Jesus Christ (Is. 42:1-9)

Reflect & Act: Will you praise Him Who is exalted in His humbling Himself?

A. Consider the glory of God you are to praise Him for (Ps. 113:4-6)

B. Consider the glory of God you are to enter in covenant with (Joshua 24:24-25)

The Covenant Of Grace Defined

In its literal sense, a covenant consists in a *mutual, binding obligation between two or more individuals who, contingent upon certain conditions, promise certain things to each other*. Between God and man there is therefore such a covenant of grace in the true sense of the word.

This covenant is a holy, magnificent, well-ordered, and eternal agreement or treaty between the all-sufficient, good, omnipotent, righteous, faithful, true, and unchangeable God on the one side. On the other side the elect who by nature are sinful, condemnable, impotent [disable], abominable, hateful and intolerable. In this covenant God promises deliverances from all evil and the bestowal of full salvation by grace through the Mediator Jesus Christ.

Man, fully delighting himself in these promises, with all his heart acquiesces [consents] in and accepts the way revealed in the Word of God, whereby these promised benefits are to be obtained. In so doing so, the sinner, by way of covenanting, surrenders himself to God. God, for the assurance of covenant partakers, seals this covenant by means of the sacraments, all this to the magnification of His free and unfathomable grace. (W. á Brakel)

The covenant of grace is God's eternal, sovereign effective plan to create a people for Himself. In His covenant God elects His people, secures their salvation, and applies that salvation to them. God's covenant redemption is progressively revealed and accomplished through specific covenants that He has made with individuals or groups of people.

Through all of these historic covenants (with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and most fully in the new covenant in Jesus Christ), God has been gradually revealing both His redemption and His people's need of it, even as He has been gathering His covenant people out of every generation until, at the consummation all His people will have been gathered to Himself. (S. Myers)