



Have you ever wanted a fresh start?

The word “covenant” means:

Revelation 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God...” (NIV)*

What Does Scripture Teach Us About Covenant?

1. It’s not all _____.

Genesis 12:1–3 *The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.” ²“I will make you into a great nation... ³...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (NIV)*

2. Everyone has a _____ and a _____.

Exodus 35:21 *...Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. (NIV)*

3. It involves _____ our _____.

Joshua 24:14–15 *“So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone.” ¹⁵ But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.” (NLT)*

4. _____ is necessary to remain God’s people.

2 Kings 23:3 *The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant. (NIV)*

5. As we _____ we are _____.

Romans 12:1–2 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)*

WE ALL NEED TO BE _____

How Can You Renew Your Covenant with God Every Day?

1. By _____.

John 14:21 *"...Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."* (NLT)

2. By _____.

John 15:12–14 *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you..."* (ESV)

3. By _____ the _____.

Matthew 28:19–20 *"...Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (NLT)

Sources: *The Communicator's Commentary* (various), *The Daily Bible Study Series* (various), and various illustrations from *Preaching Today*.

RENEWING OUR COVENANT WITH GOD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Father, You have shown us the way to life in Jesus:

We confess with shame our slowness to love Him more and our reluctance to follow Him.

You have spoken and called us, but we have failed to listen.

You have shown us Your glory, but we have been too blind to see.

We have received countless blessings, but have given You little thanks.

We are unworthy of Your changeless love.

God, have mercy on me according to Your overwhelming love and kindness.

Forgive me, Lord, and cleanse me of my sin. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.

THE COVENANT RENEWAL

And now, let us commit ourselves in covenant to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests; others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

THE COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will. Place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing. Put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full. Let me be empty. Let me have all things. Let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, You are mine, and I am Yours.

So be it.

And the covenant, which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven.

Amen.



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. How aware are you that we have a covenant with God? Can you think of any scripture or songs that represent our covenant?

2. In what ways have you felt tempted to make faith about your wants and needs? How has God shifted your focus from self?

3. What has God called you to do presently or in the past to help build up the church? What impact did that make?

4. What concrete steps can we take to reduce the influence of idols in our lives? What resources might be helpful to lean on?

5. Have there been times in your life when you fell away from God or grew distant in your faith? How did you recommit to God?

6. Are you intentionally renewing your covenant with God every day? If so, what does that look like?

7. How is God leading you to love God, love others, and live out the gospel life as we begin a brand-new year?

ANSWER KEY:

Covenant means **COMING TOGETHER**

Scripture teaches:

1. **ABOUT YOU**
2. **PLACE** and a **CONTRIBUTION**
3. **PUTTING AWAY** our **IDOLS**
4. **RENEWAL** is necessary
5. As we **RENEW**, we are **BEING RENEWED**.

We all need to be **RENEWED**.

How to renew:

1. **LOVING GOD**
2. **LOVING OTHERS**
3. **LIVING OUT** the **GOSPEL LIFE**