

The Eternal Covenant

Hebrews 13:20-21a

*“Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep **through the blood of the eternal covenant**, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will ...”*

Covenants are mutually binding agreements between two parties. Covenants in Bible times would be between two people, two groups of people, or between God and His people. Covenants were often confirmed by oaths, sacrifices, salt, blood or gifts. Today we use the word covenant with marriage, neighborhood associations, etc. The covenant spoken of in our text is an eternal (everlasting) covenant.

I. The parties of this eternal covenant are the three Persons of the Trinity.

In order for there to be an everlasting covenant, those who make the covenant must be eternal. *“God alone is immortal ... and to Him alone belongs honor and eternal dominion”* (I Timothy 6:16).

The eternal covenant is between God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. C.H. Spurgeon writes:

A. God the Father – “I, the Most High Jehovah, do hereby give unto my only begotten and well-beloved Son, a people, countless beyond the number of stars, who shall be by him washed from sin, by him preserved, and kept, and led, and by him, at last, presented before my throne, without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing. I covenant by oath, and swear by myself, that these whom I now give to Christ shall be forever *the objects of my eternal love.*”

B. God the Son – “I will take upon myself the form and nature of the fallen race. I will live in their wretched world, and for my people I will keep the law perfectly. I will work out a spotless righteousness, which shall be acceptable to the demands of Thy just and holy law. In due time I will bear the sins of all my people. Thou shalt exact their debts on me; the chastisement of their peace I will endure, and by my stripes they shall be healed. My Father, I covenant and promise that I will be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

C. God the Spirit – “I hereby covenant, that all whom the Father gives to the Son, I will in due time quicken. I will show them their need of redemption; I will cut off from them all groundless hope, and destroy their refuges of lies. I will bring them to the blood of sprinkling; I will give them faith whereby this blood shall be applied to them, I will work in them every grace and keep their faith alive; I will cleanse them and drive out all depravity from them for our names’ sake.”

II. The power of this eternal covenant is found in transformed lives in this world.

Though difficult things had occurred throughout David’s life, at the very end of his life he could say: *“Truly my house is right with God. For He has made an everlasting covenant with me ...”* (II Sam. 23:5).

A. There is power in Sovereign love.

“I pray you will be strengthened in your inner person ... rooted and grounded in love” (Eph. 3:16). You’ll never be strengthened inwardly till you realize nothing you do draws out His love for you.

B. There is power in saving love.

*“You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people **from** their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). Notice that He *shall* save. Notice He shall save *from* your sins. No one has warrant to believe in the love of God for their soul until they see the fruit of faith in Christ and repentance of sins.

C. There is power in sharing love.

“By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another” (John 13:35). When did God love you? Before you ever even began to think about loving Him. How should you love others? In the same manner, even before your enemies even consider loving you. *“We love Him **because** He first loved us”* (I John 4:19). Love, real love, is magnetic in nature.