

## The New Covenant: God's work in the gospel

(Jer 31.31-34; 04-05-20 am)

Covenant: commitment given by oath where agreement and level of relationship between parties is specified  
New covenant is unique in that it is unilateral – God absorbs full responsibility for keeping the covenant

**Central thought:** New Covenant shapes God's relationship with man

### Four principles of a covenant relationship with God

1. Principle of Initiation (31-34)      God is always the initiator in His relationships with people

7 separate times, God promises to take action signified by "I will"

2. Principle of Revelation (33)      God's covenants are meant to reveal who God is

a. The covenants were not as much about morality as they were/are about relationship

b. The new covenant is meant to show us our need for God. Needing forgiveness = sin is still present

3. Principle of Supremacy (33)      God must always be the supreme member of any relationship

Implication: if we would have a relationship with God, we must come to Him on His terms

Jesus (Mark 1.15): Repent & believe in the gospel

4. Principle of Universal Need (34)      Every person needs forgiveness to have a relationship with God

The gospel is clear that people are separated from God by their sin

It is only through forgiveness that walls of separation between God and man are broken down

It is only through forgiveness that reconciliation between holy God and sinful man can take place

Thinking visually: picture the cross as a bridge that provides man with a way to get to God

Forgiveness of sin is the only way to "know God". Only path to God's forgiveness is through faith in Jesus

### Three parts to a covenant relationship with God

A. The Problem: We are covenant breakers (32)

1. God did not break the covenant – He delivered Israel from bondage and "*was a husband*" to Israel  
Husband is language of headship and provision and protection; more softly: language of shepherding

2. Just as Israel's sin broke covenant with God, our sin breaks the law – we start life as law breakers

Our problem is that we have broken covenant with our Creator – our relationship with God must be repaired

B. The Promise: God makes a way for us to become His children (33)

God's covenant tells us who God is. It's not about keeping rules; it is about having a relationship

Keeping covenant with God – by His Spirit – not something we do, it's who we should be (2 Cor 3.18)

When God writes His law on your heart, your heart is gripped by love for God

obligation becomes opportunity; pressure becomes pleasure; duty becomes delight

C. The Process: Forgiveness from God (34)

1. Forgiveness is individual and personal. Need for forgiveness impacts all of us (v29-30) (Rom 3.23)

2. Forgiveness is the great need of every person & the great promise from God (Rom 6.23)

3. Been learning over last two weeks, in particular, forgiveness is the work of the cross (Lk 24.44-47)

To have your sins forgiven – never be counted against you for all eternity –is greatest gift ever (Ps 32.1-2)

The sweet promise of the gospel is to forgive everyone who will place their trust in Jesus

Vs 35-37: The new covenant is a covenant of grace; outcome is not dependent on works or efforts of man  
This covenant will be kept for those who are saved, because God is the Keeper of it.