The Covenants of Works and Grace

SMPC | 1.28.2024 | Christian Bland

I. The Covenant of Works

A. Overview: The Reformed Doctrine

i. Names: CoW, of _____, of nature, of life, of law.

ii. Parties: God and _____.

iii. Conditions: personal, perfect, and perpetual _____.

iv. Consequences: _____ for obedience, _____ for disobedience.

v. Definition: "God's commitment to give Adam, and his posterity in him, eternal life for obedience or eternal death for disobedience" (Sacred Bond).

B. Its legitimacy

i. Confessional data:

1. WCF 7.2: "The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to _____, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience."

2. WLC 20 & WSC 12.

ii. Biblical data:

1. Genesis 1–3: the term "covenant" isn't used, but neither is "_____."

2. 2 Sam 7: covenant isn't used here either, but _____ clarify (Ps 89).

3. Hosea 6:7: Adam _____ a covenant.

4. Isaiah 24:5: Earth's inhabitants broke the _____.

5. Ro 5:12-19, 1 Co 15:21-22: death in Adam's _____, life in Christ's _____.

C. Its parties

i. God: the _____ of the covenant.

ii. Adam: the servant king and _____, representative of all mankind.

D. Its covenantal nature

i. Some deny this—but the _____ recognized a covenant between God & Adam.

ii. If God's relationship to Adam was in the _____ of a covenant, then it's a covenant.

iii. God's act of _____ itself is covenantal.

E. Its conditions and consequences

i. Some argue: Adam would not have _____ earned a reward.

1. But if God says, "If you do this, then you will earn a reward," it's true.

2. Is it _____ for God to give a reward if someone obeys the terms? Rom 4:4.

a. WCF 7.1: "_____ … by way of covenant."

ii. Conditions: personal, perfect, and perpetual _____ (WLC 20).

1. To the moral law; cultural mandate (Gen 1:28); _____ law (2:17).

2. Personal, perfect, and perpetual.

iii. Consequences: life and death.

1. Death: Gen 2:17; physical, spiritual (Eph 2:1), and _____ (Rev 20:14).

2. Life: Gen 3:22; not just static immortal life, but _____ life.

F. Its enduring status

i. Not repealed when Adam broke it—conditions & consequences _____.

ii. _____, we're all dead in sin and bound for eternal death.

G. Its importance

i. The CoW explains why people are condemned outside of Christ.

ii. It teaches us that _____ must be earned.

iii. It sheds light on the _____, who did obey and make us righteous (Rom 5:19).

II. The Covenant of Grace

A. Overview: The Reformed Doctrine

i. Parties: God and _____.

ii. Sworn oath: "I will be their _____, and they shall be my _____" (Jer 31:33).

iii. Conditions & consequences: _____, eternal life.

iv. Definition: "The covenant between God and believers with their children, in which he promises salvation through faith in Christ, who merited their salvation by his obedience in the covenant of redemption" (*Sacred Bond*).

B. Its legitimacy

i. Confessional data:

1. WCF 7.3: "Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the Covenant of Grace: whereby he freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved; and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe."

2. WLC 30 & WSC 14.

ii. Biblical data:

1. Gen 3:15: CoG first promised (the _____).
2. Gen 12–21: CoG _____ (Gen 17:7).
3. The promise repeated: Ex 6:7; Jer 31:33; Hos 2:23; Zech 13:9; Rev 22:3.
4. The _____ covenant: Jer 31:31–34; Heb 8:8–13; Luke 22:20.

C. Its parties (covenant membership)

i. God is the _____, entering the covenant as a gracious Redeemer.

ii. The human party: sinful humans (WCF 7), but ultimately the elect (WLC 31).

1. The elect are _____ participants—members of invisible church.
2. There are _____ members, who aren't elect—visible church only.

iii. The Mediator: _____ is the only Mediator of the CoG.

D. Its conditions and consequences

i. Conditional or unconditional?

1. When compared to the CoW, the CoG is obviously _____.
2. But in another sense, there is 1 condition of the CoG: _____ in the Mediator.

ii. Consequences: All of Christ's _____.

E. Its unity

i. There is only one CoG throughout _____, one way of salvation.

1. There is one _____ between God and men, the Lord Jesus (1 Tim 2:5).
2. Gal 3:15–22: God's covenant with Abraham wasn't set aside.

ii. Scripture says that OT saints were saved by _____.

1. Jn 8:56: Abraham saw Jesus's day and was glad.
2. Heb 11:26: Moses "considered the reproach of _____ greater wealth…"

iii. OT covenants were _____ of the one covenant of grace.

1. "There are not therefore two covenants of grace differing in _____, but one and the same under various dispensations" (WCF 7.6).
2. The _____ of OT covenants of promise is Christ (Col 2:17).

F. Its importance

i. The CoG gives the hope of the Gospel to those condemned under the CoW.

ii. It explains how to _____—as one overarching story of God's redemption.

iii. We receive the _____ of the CoW, though we deserve its _____.