

The Covenant in Regard to *God the Father*

1. Eternal, Unchangeable, Unconditional
2. God the Father has chosen the elect in eternity past, predestined the end of all things, foreordaining the various means thereof, and loves His elect unconditionally.
3. Systematic Theology often begins with this eternal aspect of the covenant, especially regarding the proper “order of salvation”,
(election, regeneration, faith, justification, sanctification, glorification)
4. This primarily concerns the “invisible church”, which is all of God’s elect whether in the past, present, or future.

*As water is a **solid**, this aspect is fixed from eternity.*
Eph. 1:4; John 17:2

God’s Trinitarian Covenant With His People

The Covenant in Regard to *God the Son*

1. Historical, Unstoppable, Accomplished
2. God the Son has accomplished salvation within history, bringing a fulfillment to all promises made beforehand, and to all the previous covenants – all of which anticipated His redeeming work.
3. Biblical Theology often focuses on the progression and development of biblical themes as they have matured in different ages of covenant history.
4. God’s redemption through Christ was unstoppable. The era of the Mosaic Law could not annul (Gal.3:17) the promised work of Christ. The “many offenses” (Rm.5:16) of Israel’s history and killing of Christ “where sin abounded” (Rm.5:20) – neither the culmination or climax of sin could stop redemption. God used it as a means of accomplishing His work in Christ.

*As water is a **liquid**, this aspect has flowed as an unstoppable river.*
Ez.47:1-12; Gal.3:17

The Covenant in Regard to *God the Spirit*

1. Personal, Applied, Conditional
 2. God the Spirit applies the accomplished work of Christ to the church.
 3. Pastoral Theology often focuses on the “visible church”, admonishing all baptized persons in their privileges and responsibilities.
 - + All baptized people are responsible to have faith, repentance, and perseverance to the end; which are conditions for receiving and inheriting the covenant promises.
 - + A *common work* of the Holy Spirit is experienced by everyone in the visible church through God’s word, sacraments, and prayer. This outward work identifies the local church as God’s covenant people (I Cor.12:13; see the Westminster Confession of Faith 10:4).
 - + An *effectual work* of the Holy Spirit is experienced by the eternally elect of God (Eph.1:4-5), enabling them to live out the covenantal conditions of faith, repentance, and perseverance.
 - + Those who neglect or reject the covenant promises, dying without saving faith, will be eternally cursed as a covenant-breaker (Heb.10:29). Those who receive and embrace the covenant promises, dying with saving faith, will be eternally blessed as a covenant-keeper (Gal.6:8).
- As water is a **vapor**, this aspect addresses God’s visible people in this life.*
James 4:14; Eccl. 12:13; Heb.2:4