

## MONDAY

## Covenantal Love

- Unifying theme of Scripture
  - God is covenant-making / covenant-keeping God
- He makes / keeps = all covenant promises
- Invites us to enter into relationship of covenantal love
- Special love relationship exists between Lord = and =
  - those who have entered into covenant w/Him
  - involves not only His love for us = but also His expectations that we accept His love = love Him in return = by demonstrating our loyalty = by obedience motivated by love
- **Hebrews 7:25** = Jesus Christ = surety of covenant
  - Guarantor from God to us
  - **2 CORINTHIANS 1:20** No matter how many promises God has made, they find their “yes” answer in Christ.
  - Guarantor from us toward God
  - **Phil 2:13** works in us both to will / to do = His good pleasure
- God describes Himself / intimate terms to those in covenant w/Him
- **FATHER** to covenant people
- **Exodus 4:22** ‘Thus says the LORD: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.
- **Jeremiah 3:19** NASB ‘You shall call Me, My Father, And not turn away from following Me.’
- God of OT / NT = same = covenantal God of Israel
- **John 1:12** to as many as receive Christ as personal Savior / He gives = right / power / privilege to become = children of God, that is, to those who believe = trust in / rely on His name—
- **Romans 8:14–15** If we’re led by Holy Spirit = we are covenant sons of God = He is Spirit of adoption by adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” Abba = Aramaic for Papa

- **HUSBAND** = **Isaiah 54:5** <sup>5</sup>For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.
- **Hosea 2:19–20** “I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In **righteousness and justice**, In lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.
- NT presents Christ = bridegroom / husband
- God / who describes Himself our Father / our Husband
  - finds joy in our reciprocal love

**Psalms 147:11** The Lord **delights** in those who fear Him [respect Him, stand in reverent awe of Him], and **takes pleasure** in those who put their hope in His mercy [Hebrew “mercy” = hesed]

- **Hesed** = is my favorite covenant word / grace—plus so much more.
  - Used over 240 times = in original Hebrew language of Old T.
- **Hesed**= like multifaceted diamond = shines w/ brilliance /clarity to describe God’s unchanging covenantal love
- So rich in meaning = no single English word can encapsulate it.
- Bible translators = difficult time expressing concept of hesed.
- Unfailing Love / loving-kindness / mercy / grace / steadfastness, covenant faithfulness / loyalty = all integrated in its meaning.
- Describes = actions of God toward His covenant people.

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8** God didn’t choose Israel as His covenant son because they were great in number = or any other way = chose them to keep His everlasting covenant oath to Abraham/ Isaac/Jacob = redeemed them from house of bondage = saved them

**Deuteronomy 7:9** “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations **with those who love Him and keep His commandments**

**ABSG QUOTE** Deut. 7:9 Describes a special kind of love that God has w/His covenant people, a relationship that is partially dependent on whether or not they remain faithful. God’s love is not conditional, but the covenant relationship with His people is. **UNQUOTE**

- God’s *hesed* = initiates reciprocal love relationship, w/ expectation those who enter into covenant w/Him = demonstrate love in return .

**ABSG QUOTE** God’s *hesed* shows that His lovingkindness is extremely reliable, steadfast, and enduring. Yet, at the same time, the reception of the benefits of *hesed* is conditional, dependent upon the willingness of His people to obey and to maintain their end of the relationship

**UNQUOTE** (see 2 Sam. 22:26, 1 Kings 8:23, Ps. 25:10, Ps. 32:10, 2 Chron. 6:14).

- God keeps His covenant promises w/those who keep covenant w/Him = Walking in covenantal love / loyalty to Him

**ABSG QUOTE** God’s steadfast love is the basis of all love relationships, and we could never match that love. God not only freely gave us existence, but in Christ He freely gave Himself for us. “ ‘Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends’ ” (John 15:13, NKJV). No question, the greatest expression of God’s love was revealed when the Lord “humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8, NKJV).