

Covenant People

by Bob Young

Our culture is filled with churches that are trying to be God's people and do the work of God apart from "covenant relationship" with God. An increasing number of persons in our national culture seek the relationship of marriage without commitment or covenant; a similar situation has developed in many churches.

What does it mean to be a covenant person?
Is it what you believe? Is it your doctrinal statement?
Are we covenant people because of the way we worship?

How does one come to be a covenant person?
By accepting a system of teaching?
By accepting or accomplishing a prescribed activity checklist?

How can one tell who is a covenant person?
At its heart, this is the question of how the church is to be defined. What is the church?
What is the result of covenant relationship with God?

Covenant relationship with God is not sinlessness; it is not perfection. It is not adherence to doctrine or an order of worship. It involves the restoration of image. It is the mind of Christ within us. It shows up as we focus on others more than ourselves; it shows up as we focus on people more than tasks; it shows up in leadership that develops and leads a cause or movement rather than an organization.

The DNA of a covenant person (disciple, follower of Jesus) is seen in response to the questions, "Do you love God? Do you love your neighbor?" If we are restored to God-image, might it show up in our commitment to bless others as much as in a commitment to evangelize others? Is our goal a version of salvation that makes folks like us, or is the goal restoration of covenant relationship with God?

The latter has tremendous power to really change lives!