



**Jeremy White, Lead Pastor**  
**Valley Church**

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**Week 2 – The New Covenant**

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### **Introduction:**

Covenant = An arrangement or \_\_\_\_\_ between two parties

There are numerous covenants in the Bible. For example...

Adamic (Given to Adam after the fall into sin – Genesis 3:16-19)

Noahic (Given to Noah promising never to flood earth again – Genesis 9:8-17)

Abrahamic (Given to Abraham promising blessing – Genesis 12, 15, 17)

### **The Two Major Covenants in Scripture:**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant (Law of Moses)

The \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant (Grace of Jesus)

### **Key Realities:**

Ezekiel 36:25-27 – God promises cleansing, new heart and new spirit within

Hebrews 8:7-8 – A New Covenant because the Old could not be kept

Hebrews 8:13 – The Old is obsolete

Colossians 2:23 – Law-based religion is powerless to produce godliness

### **The Apostle Paul Clarifies:**

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 – The Law kills, but the Spirit gives life

2 Corinthians 3:7-8 – The Law was a ministry of death to make way for the ministry of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:9-11 – The Law was a glorious ministry because it buried people under condemnation to expose their need for grace

**The New Covenant Command:** “As I have loved you...love one another (John 13:34)

## **SMALL GROUP Q'S**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Share some personal examples of how rules, regulations, prohibitions, etc., have enticed greater temptation in your life or in our culture. While rules and laws are not “bad” in and of themselves, why are they so useless for producing genuine Christlikeness in people?
2. Try to think of a situation or time in your life when you were “obeying the rules” outwardly, but inwardly your heart was not in it. Why is this such a common experience for people?

### **Ponderings:**

3. Read Romans 6:17 as a group. How is the “obedience from the heart” that God produces different from religious behavior modification?
4. Many Christians live spiritually confused lives, believing that they still have an old, evil heart within them that is in competition with their new heart. Yet, the Scripture boldly promises that the old self already died with Christ (Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-4, Colossians 3:1-3) and that one of the core promises of the New Covenant is a new heart to *replace* the old (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Acts 15:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - Since we have been given a new, obedient heart, and the old “sinful nature” from Adam is dead and gone, where do the sinful impulses that we battle actually come from?
  - If you set your mind each day on the truth of your new, righteous, obedient heart that has been given to you by grace, how might that affect your life?
5. Read Hebrews 8:1-13 as a group. What are some of the major terms of the New Covenant? Why does it matter that we know this and live by faith in the truth of it? Explain...

### **Promptings:**

6. Will you begin to really seek the Lord about His New Covenant – asking Him to reveal and remind you of its terms so that you can walk more completely and maturely in that which is already yours in Christ?