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Covenant Purpose

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# Covenant

Lots of things happen in all these years. Saying that our relationship is valuable to me.

* We have to understand covenant is a binding agreement that requires death.
  + Genesis 15 - God and Abram
  + Old Testament sacrifices on altar
  + Baptism and resurrection

It’s because we are covenant people. From my life to you, from your life to others. Not rooted in what you did for me, how trustworthy you are or how you perform according to my expectations. I live covenant towards you. You did not choose your family! You live covenant with these people for what reason? You are a family! You have the same father!

# Walking through mess together

Covenant behavior in that day was 3 animals and busting it in half! A large animal chopped in half and drag them apart from each other. then you pass between the halves. All that blood and organs. You're walking through organs and mess, lots of poop. Covenant is we will walk through mess together, death together, through poop if we have to!

If you have a relationship with another human, there will be mess! Covenant is my realization that that is exactly of what I will do. My life towards you is I will adjust to protect us!

**Not about keeping abusive people in the inner circles!** You should definitely have boundaries keeping those people out!

John 12:23-24 (ESV) And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Sowing my life into the Body, society, and everything is so much bigger than me watching out for me!

# Children

Children: since you met these people they're trying to kill you. When you meet them they are so disruptive to your life and they don’t care at all how it affects you. I want a cracker! Another one and I just pooped on my leg, do something about it!

It just goes on forever! You think it will go away, no it doesn’t! It becomes increasingly demanding because you can’t put them away, they grow up. Children will be the most demanding relationship you can have, and there will not be any other people that you love more!

# No control, just sowing

Covenant is intended to develop the best out of you! You can’t control it! My investment in you, I don’t determine what you do with it!

1 Corinthians 15:36-38 (ESV) You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

You don’t determine what happens after you sow the seed, God does! The only say that I have is this direction, I will pour my life into you for your benefit.

# Love over disagreement

A relationship becomes a covenant when I can convince those around me that I will die to protect our relationships.

Can’t think of other people than people that came from Weaverville to Bethel. Most powerful disagreements because we consistently see things so differently. Yet we have learned the practice of covenant to the point where I take the issue where we so completely disagree about. We will exalt our love above the issue.

Never allow our disagreement above our love towards each other. Can’t be the ruling spirit, which is really just a spirit of fear.

# Agreement in the church

Who are those people in my life? Typically we love agreement more than love itself. I love to surround myself with myself so there is more of me. Most of the times that is called a church. I don’t know how to walk in deep covenant with people who are different than me. I don’t know how to preserve relationships when you don’t remind me of me.

Who would you give your life for outside of your immediate family? Who would you take a bullet for? Who would take a bullet for you? You're getting in touch with the scope of your covenant. How you think of covenant.

If your covenant is really small it shows the disassembly of the assembly. As long as I don’t benefit from people I will look for others, that is not covenant! Covenant requires you to lay your life down.

# Sacrifice

The heart of the Father is sacrifice.

Covenant requires a willingness to sacrifice! Willing to suffer for your benefit. I have people who can require willingness of me. What should I do? What do you need? I will go find it! Bill has changed the course of my career and moved my family twice out of request! One person could’ve asked him and he would go back to Weaverville. Why? Yoda asked me to come!

I am now the pastor of the church I got saved in. We spent 6 years building a church, fountain chapel. We rented building around town for 18 years! In the 18th year, we have spent 2 years building a building. 3 months before we are to occupy that building I get another phone call. Danny, will you come to Bethel?

I gave Steve Backlund the keys to a church I never preached in. Who in your life can change your mind? The course and the direction you have set that you know that is where you're going? Who has the power to shift you in covenant?

Who have you given the power to tell you no? The heart of the father is that we are willing to sacrifice! Willing to communicate and put on display the covenant we have with each other. I will add my strength to your success. Sacrifice for your benefit. Looking back nothing he did was a sacrifice. Looking on the other side of the decision it was like cutting his leg off.

# Accountability

We say we’re accountable to people who really have no power at all in my life. What if they abuse the power in my life? You will! Wait until you are a parent. Not about will they abuse it? Are we powerful together to work that out? Have we valued the relationship significantly enough to work things out?

The biggest change I made in Sacramento is that there is nobody around him who can tell him no, or how are you doing? Everybody is saying Danny is in the room! What do you think about this? About that? But when I come back in relationships that I have cultivated over my life? Those people ask me how are your finances? What do you've got planned? How is your marriage doing?

# The redwoods

These people can shape my future, set me on a different path than the one I am on. This is covenant! It’s a matter of strength and community and strength in community. Redwood trees, 30 stories high. Nearly 2000 years on the pacific coast. Cliffs and trees as the storms beat on them. The remarkable thing is that any tree like that size should have a tap root 30% as big as it is high. These redwood trees have a tap root of around 6 feet. That is basically a dent! How is this not the great domino forest? It has everything to do with the root system. For miles in a 360 radius, all grabbing on to each other. A tapestry dozens of feet thick while these storms beat against them. They snug up a little tighter! Still room to pull it in a little bit!

Grabbing on to the lives of trees they are connected to. Covenant relationship goes to benefit people's lives you will never meet! Never do anything for you except receiving strength from your life out of sacrifice, because you are doing the same thing!

Generations later we read about them in the Bible, we are part of that eternal line that is sending out life through community. Important that we stick to covenant. 2 years of this will do something to a person. 15 years from now you'll find each other; 2nd-year BSSM? WOW, how have you been? This is amazing! I love you! What is your name again? :p The covenant was this year!

Go create covenant, the power to make this. The value and understanding to make covenant. To send your lateral roots out and grab on to people.

# Knowing people of covenant makes it possible

When we got saved some redwoods were grabbing onto our lives. Things were changing in how we saw things. Covenant is possible! Walking around mount chapel and say wait a minute you two have 3 children and you are their parents? This one is 12 and you're the only parent they ever knew?!

Those children never knew other parents? Does everybody in this church lie? I had never seen it before! Never knew healthy marriage except for my grandparents!

Being people of covenant makes it contagious. We were able to stop the momentum of generations about this.

Blue ribbon corn, I give my champion from last year to all the farmers around me. Who have you surrounded yourself with? You can introduce excuses into your covenant or introduce stronger covenants into your covenants! Who we give permission to speak into our lives is important! Please don’t let this be the high watermark! You have an opportunity to build upon the momentum you have. It is a matter of the heart, replacing the relationships you have. Protecting the momentum you have. The decision to bring leaders into your life.

**I give you permission to change my mind**

# Isolating yourself is no option!

It is no longer an option to be isolated! You have gained benefit because you gave someone permission to change your life. Permission to say no. Given permission to speak into the course that you have set. Probably the most valuable characteristic, besides courage because it takes courage to do it.

It is not just your life, it isn't your life! You are a representative of someone else’s life through you. The life you create around you on this point is on display!

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me…

Protecting other people with the decisions that I make. When you have a family you do whatever you can to teach them that. Please make decisions to protect this family. To honor our covenant.

None of us are going down, we are going to tighten up a little bit. I pray for you, make decisions that protect you, I will make sacrifices that benefit you. I will supply anything I can. The covenant I live in is eternal, it is my mindset. I am never going to not be a covenant person. I am a part of something much greater than myself.