

The Adamic Covenant

Genesis 2:15-17
Small Group Questions

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16-22, 2025

- (1) Read Genesis 2:4-17.
 - (a) How do verses 15-17 connect with the larger context of this section?
 - (b) How does verse 15 relate to and build on verse 8?
 - (c) The Tree of Life is mentioned in verse 9, but not in verses 16-17. Why do you think that is?
- (2) Have you thought of the creation of Adam in terms of a *covenant* before?
 - (a) If so, how have you thought about the nature of the covenant here?
 - (b) If you've encountered the idea of covenant in these verses but are not convinced there is an Adamic Covenant, what weaknesses do you see with that idea?
- (3) Covenants don't arise in a vacuum – they are an ancient fact of life in the world. Specifically when covenants have been made by kings, they include elements of (1) being initiated by a sovereign; (2) being given to specific people; (3) establishing the nature of the relationship; (4) making promises; (5) giving blessings for obedience; and (6) declaring sanctions for disobedience.
 - (a) How do we see those elements in Genesis 1:28 and 2:4-17?
 - (b) How do you see those elements present in God's giving the Old Covenant at Sinai in Exodus 19:3-6, 20:1-17, 31:12-18?
 - (c) How do you see those elements present in God's giving the New Covenant – you can find it several places, but go to Hebrews 8:7-13 and 10:26-31?
- (4) How does Genesis 2:17 clue us into the fact that all of Adam's offspring bear the penalty for his breaking the terms of the Adamic Covenant... what fact of our lives testifies to our participation in that covenant?
- (5) Discuss the value and dignity of work as a gift from God in light of Genesis 2:15.
 - (a) Many throughout Church History have seen a distinction between "holy work" (like being a pastor or missionary) versus "unholy work" (like being a teacher or plumber or lawyer or zookeeper). Does this distinction hold up in light of the Adamic Covenant? Why or why not?
 - (b) What difference does a high view of the glory of God in all human labor make to our daily lives?
- (6) How does Adam's headship in the Adamic Covenant lead us to Christ's headship in the New Covenant? Tease this out from Romans 5:12-21 and close with a time of thankful prayer.